Hafa Adai!

Navy report: Multiple errors poisoned Pearl Harbor water. PAGE 2

19 new US citizens in 4th of July naturalization rite. PAGE 4

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Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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www.saipantribune.com | WEDNESDAY JULY 6, 2022 | www.facebook.com/saipantribune

Fuel prices down 15 cents

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After months of gradual increases in fuel prices, the CNMI finally saw a price rollback yesterday, with local oil companies reducing gas prices by 15 cents.

Mobil Oil Marianas led the way yesterday with a 15-cent reduction in their fuel prices. Shell Marianas is expected to follow suit today.

Late yesterday afternoon, Mobil reduced the price of its regular fuel from $6.56 a gallon to $6.41 a gallon. Also, Mobil now charges $6.86 per gallon of its Supreme Fuel, down from $7.01, while its diesel price was also reduced from $7.48 per gallon to $7.38.

This was the first price rollback seen in months.

For a 19-year-old individual

See FUEL on Page 4

A Mobil Oil Marianas gas station price board shows the new lower gas prices.

KIMBERLY ESMORES

TRADITIONAL DANCE

LEIGH GASES

The Domatsuri Warriors perform a traditional Carolinian dance in front of the grandstand at the Garapan Fishing Base during Monday's Liberation Day Parade.

More photos on Page 2

United to fly Saipan-Narita for 6 months

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
Kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

United Airlines has agreed to provide direct flights between Saipan and Narita, Japan for six months starting this September to accommodate the CNMI's recently established TRIP Japan program.

According to Ivan Quichocho, Marianas Visitors Authority's TRIP chairman, the official agreement between the CNMI and United Airlines, in

See UNITED on Page 4

COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY

LEGEND:
- **Red:** Least safe
- **Orange**
- **Yellow**
- **Blue**
- **Green:** Safest

Source: Office of the Governor

Demapan

Maratita

Magofna

Babauta

Salas

5 vie for 2 Saipan Senate posts

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

So far, five individuals are expected to file their candidacies for senator of Saipan, which has two positions up for grabs for this Nov. 8 general election.

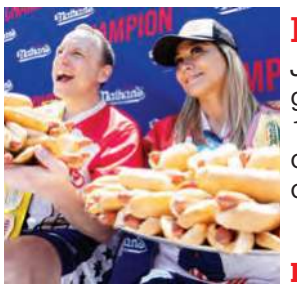
The five who will be running for Saipan senator are Rep. Angel Aldan Demapan (R-Saipan), former representative Janet Ulloa Maratita, Rep. Corina L. Magofna (Ind-Saipan), Rep. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), and former Labor secretary and

See SENATE on Page 4

INSIDE

NATION
A gunman opens fire on an Independence Day parade in Chicago, killing at least six people.
PAGE 12

ASIA
Hundreds of homes have been inundated in and around Australia's largest city in a flood emergency.
PAGE 13



LIFE & STYLE
Joey "Jaws" Chestnut gobbles his way to a 15th win at the Fourth of July hot dog eating contest.
PAGE 15

SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

GOT A NEWS TIP? TEL: 235-6397 / 235-2440 FAX: 235-3740 EMAIL: editor@saipantribune.com

Local

LIBERATION DAY PARADE

Spectators were camped in makeshift tents and came armed with umbrellas and cameras as they await the passing of the Liberation Day parade last Monday during the CNMI's celebration of Liberation Day.

LEIGH GASES

Parade spectators with umbrellas and cameras line both sides of a stretch of Beach Road and await the passing of the Liberation Day parade last Monday during the CNMI's celebration of Liberation Day.

LEIGH GASES

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Visit cnmieconomy.com
Online survey ends on July 15 at midnight.
Help us improve resources and support for small businesses in the CNMI
The CNMI Small Business Development Center (SBDC) Network, in collaboration with the Governor's Council of Economic Advisers (GCEA), and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), invites all CNMI small business owners to take this anonymous survey. The results will assist us in identifying how we can better support you! Printed surveys will be available at the Rota, Tinian, and Saipan Mayors' offices. Complete and return your survey by noon on July 15.
*Must be a resident of the CNMI and own or manage a business.
AMERICA'S SBDC CNMI
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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL OF ECONOMIC ADVISERS
SAIPAN CHAMBER

Team NMI members join the Liberation Day parade last Monday during the CNMI's celebration of Liberation Day.

LEIGH GASES

Players of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association demonstrate playing with a football during the Liberation Day parade last Monday.

LEIGH GASES

Members of the TanHoldings Football Club join the Liberation Day parade last Monday.

LEIGH GASES

The Saipan Awaodori team performs in front of the grandstand at the Garapan Fishing Base during the July 4 parade.

LEIGH GASES

The Japanese Society of the Northern Marianas carry a shrine as they stop in front of the grandstand at the Garapan Fishing Base during the July 4 parade.

LEIGH GASES

Navy report: Multiple errors poisoned Pearl Harbor water

PEARL HARBOR, Hawaii (AP)—A Navy investigation released Thursday revealed that shoddy management and human error caused fuel to leak into Pearl Harbor's tap water last year, poisoning thousands of people and forcing military families to evacuate their homes for hotels.

The investigation is the first detailed account of how jet fuel from the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility, a massive World War II-era military-run tank farm in the hills above Pearl Harbor, leaked into a well that supplied water to housing and offices in and around the sprawling base. Some 6,000 people suffered nausea, headaches, rashes and other symptoms.

After months of resistance, the military in April agreed to an order from the state of Hawaii to drain the tanks and close the Red Hill facility. A separate report the Defense Department provided to the state Department of Health on Thursday said December 2024 was the earliest it could defuel the tanks safely.

The investigation report listed a cascading series of mistakes from May 6, 2021, when operator error caused a pipe to rupture and 21,000 gallons (80,000 liters) of fuel to spill when fuel was being transferred between tanks. Most of this fuel spilled into a fire suppression line and sat there for six months, causing the line to sag. A cart rammed into this sagging line on Nov. 20, releasing 20,000 gallons (75,700 liters) of fuel.

The area where the cart hit the line isn't supposed to have fuel, and so the officials who responded to the spill didn't have the right equipment to capture the liquid.

"The team incorrectly assumes that all of the fuel has been sopped up," Adm. Sam Paparo, the commander of the U.S. Pacific Fleet, told reporters at a news conference. About 5,000 gallons (19,000 liters) wasn't recovered.

"Meanwhile, over the course of eight days, that fuel enters into this French drain that is under the concrete and seeps slowly and quietly into the Red Hill well. And that fuel into the Red Hill well is then pumped into the Navy system," Paparo said.

Red Hill officials thought that only 1,618 gallons (6,125 liters) had leaked in the May spill and that they recovered all but 38 gallons (144 liters). They noticed that one of the tanks was short 20,000 gallons (75,700 liters) but believed it had flowed through the pipes and didn't realize it had flown into the fire suppression line. They didn't report the discrepancy to senior leadership.

After the November spill when people started getting sick, the military moved about 4,000 mostly military families into hotels for months while they waited for their water to be safe again.

The spill contaminated the Navy's water system. Fuel didn't get into the Honolulu municipal water supply. But concerns the oil might migrate through the aquifer and get into the city's wells prompted the Honolulu Board of Water Supply in December to shut down a key well serving some 400,000 people. The agency has been asking residents to conserve water because of this and unusually dry weather.

The report said officials defaulted to assuming the best about what was happening when the spills occurred, instead of assuming the worst, and this contributed to their overlooking the severity of situation.

Paparo said the Navy was trying to move away from that. He called it an ongoing process "to get real with ourselves" and "being honest about our deficiencies."

He recommended that the Navy review operations at 48 defense fuel storage facilities worldwide.

"We cannot assume Red Hill represents an outlier, and similar problems may exist at other locations," Paparo wrote in the report.

The vice chief of naval operations has assigned the head of U.S. Fleet Forces Command, a four-star admiral, to determine disciplinary measures for those in uniform. Recommendations regarding civilian employees will be sent to their supervisors, Paparo said.

The report said the investigation revealed that poor training and supervision, ineffective leadership and an absence of ownership regarding operational safety also contributed to the incident.

"The lack of critical thinking, intellectual rigor, and self-assessment by key leaders at decisive moments exemplified a culture of complacency and demonstrated a lack of professionalism that is demanded by the high consequence nature of fuel operations," the report said.

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO FILE DISSOLUTION

Please take notice that Pangelinan & Associates, Inc. intends to file articles of dissolution with the CNMI Registrar of Corporations anytime after this notice is made.

Anyone with a claim against the corporation is requested to submit it in accordance with the following:

1. The claim shall be made in writing and shall state the name of the claimant, the amount of the claim, the factual basis for the claim, and the name, mailing address, email address, and telephone number of the person who may be contacted by the corporation with respect to the claim.
2. The claim may be sent to: P.O. Box 501531, Saipan MP 96950 or call 670-234-5236
3. A claim against the corporation will be barred unless a processing to enforce the claim is commenced within five years after the publication of the notice.

Pangelinan & Associates, Inc.
P.O. Box 501531, Saipan MP 96950

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: DPW/SWMD22-ITB No.: 42200122

SUBMISSION DATE: July 27, 2022 TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"Rehabilitation/Replacement of Protective Well Casings and Structures for the Groundwater and Landfill Gas Monitoring Wells at the Marpi Landfill, Saipan

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DIVISION, LOWER BASE TRANSFER STATION, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

The project package will be available on or after **June 29, 2022** at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan.

A non-refundable payment of **One Hundred Dollars ($100.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the **Scope of Work at the Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station required for each set.**

There will be a **Pre-bid Conference** for this project on **July 15, 2022,** 9:00 a.m. local time at the Solid Waste Management Division Conference Room, Lower Base Transfer Station, Saipan. The Prospective bidders are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the site. All question regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **July 20, 2022** to **Mr. Blas T. Mafnas, Director of Solid Waste Management Division, Lower Base Transfer Station**, Saipan or fax to (670) 322-2762. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ JAMES A. ADA
SECRETARY, DPW

/S/ FRANCISCO C. AGUON
ACTING DIRECTOR,
DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/CGC-018

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"OFFICE LEASE - SAIPAN"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
RFP22-CHCC/OUT-PATIENT PHARMACY-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JULY 8TH, 2022 TIME: 10:00AM (CHST)

"Pharmacy Department Drive-thru Renovation & Improvements" (Coordinate, Design, Oversight Monitoring & Construction) For CHCC Hospital/Pharmacy Department

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.GOV.MP]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL AND TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
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FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL 237-1015~18 OR EMAIL: arangamar@dys.gov.mp / aolopai@dys.gov.mp

Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture TASI TOURS P&A Pacific & America CREES MARIANAS

19 new US citizens in 4th of July naturalization rite

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI welcomed 19 new U.S. citizens who were sworn in during a naturalization ceremony yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

As part of the national celebration of Independence Day, or the Fourth of July, the U.S. District Court for the NMI swore in 19 new U.S. citizens who can now officially bask in their newfound identities alongside other Americans.

During a special naturalization ceremony yesterday, U.S. District Court for the NMI Magistrate Judge Heather Kennedy administered the oath of citizenship for the 19 new Americans: Elena Galvez Aguon, Cosette Marian Empleo Ayuyu, Olivia Reyes Bateman, Jinky Sevilla Browne, Marilou Cando Carlos, Marjorie Nacional Castro, Michelle Saludares Cuellar, Melba Badal Darag, Elenita and Juanito Manlabao, Lorenzo Malbas Oboza, Conrado Parera Pascual, Sandy Bernardo Quemado, Concepcion Aureo Reyes, Clarence Joy Sandajan Santos, Ronald Santa Cruz Saturno, Betty Nora Swasty Sirait, Teodora Borja Soriano, and Elna Madurar Tighe.

In speaking to the new citizens, Kennedy said she recognizes and celebrates the effort and utter determination that brought each and everyone of the new citizens to the final leg of their journey to becoming citizens.

"I always say, you more than my children, more than myself, truly understand how important it is to become a citizen of the United States and how important the individual freedoms are. You fought to become a U.S. citizen. You may have spent many, many years trying to become a U.S. citizen. So you have spent your time, your effort, and your determination. I am [honored] to administer the oath of citizenship, and helping you complete that last step in your journey," she said.

One of the 19 new citizens, Sirait, a former citizen of Indonesia, shared that her first act as a U.S. citizen is to become a merchant mariner for either the U.S. Navy or the U.S. government.

"I have merchant marine credentials. Now being a U.S. citizen, I can work on any ship. That's my dream. I can apply right now and start working for the Navy or a government ship," she said.

Sirait, the wife of retired U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Bacher, started her journey to becoming a U.S. citizen back in 2014 when her husband was stationed on Saipan and has been here ever since. She was the sole Indonesian national to recite the oath of citizenship yesterday among 18 former Philippine citizens.

Betty Nora S. Sirait, right, poses with her husband, retired U.S. Navy Capt. Michael Bacher, after taking the oath of citizenship during a naturalization ceremony yesterday at the U.S. District Court for the NMI.
KIMBERLY B. ESMORES

In closing the ceremony, guest speaker Michael S. Sablan, Civilian Aid to the Secretary of the Army, congratulated each new citizen on completing their citizenship journey.

He shared that, although his journey to becoming a U.S. citizen may have been easier, he too faced some struggles along the way to becoming a citizen and is excited for all the new opportunities they will now be able to experience.

"Like you all, I did not grow up as a U.S. citizen. I went to school abroad to seek a college education as a foreign student. I wasn't privy to many benefits that U.S. citizens were provided. I paid higher tuition costs. I had a hard time finding work as a non-citizen. Well, all that changed 90 days when citizenship was granted to our Commonwealth, thanks to our relationship with the United States. While my journey toward gaining citizenship may look different, I think in many ways my journey was much easier, I know some of you worked hard on getting citizenship. It is the same citizenship that we now enjoy together today. It is the same citizenship that defines and binds us together as Americans and offers each of us the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

FUEL

From Page 1

who pulled up at the pump at around 3pm yesterday, it was like winning the lottery.

"I pulled up at the pump and I saw a Mobil worker changing their price board and it felt like I won a lottery. I was going to pump $40 worth of gas but I was like 'better make the most of it' and I decided to just go full tank. It was exciting," she said.

Meanwhile, a 45-year-old construction worker said it was relief to see the fuel price rollback even though it was only 15 cents.

"I know 15 cents is small but when you've been seeing a steady increase for the past few months, it's like a small breath of fresh air. It felt like a relief to see fuel go back down. I only hope it continues because over $6 for gas is too much," he said.

The average U.S. price of regular-grade gasoline fell by 4 cents per gallon since the last week of June. It was the first drop in nine weeks and came with a drop in oil prices amid deepening global inflation fears, industry analyst Trilby Lundberg said.

"As lower gasoline prices make their way through distribution to retail, consumers will likely see further declines in coming days," Lundberg said.

For the past few months, CNMI fuel prices have been gradually increasing, the latest of which happened just two weeks ago, with local oil companies across Saipan raising prices by 15 cents.

Prior to that increase, in the first week of June, fuel prices were increased 15 cents.

A steady increase in fuel prices was also seen throughout the month of May with the last increase of 15 cents was seen on May 20.

The steepest increase the CNMI has seen in the past few months was back in April 20, when local oil companies increased their prices by 20 cents, bringing regular fuel prices up to $5.96 for a gallon.

The CNMI saw its first fuel increase of the year back on Jan. 5, when local oil companies raised prices of regular fuel to $4.96, followed by a string of increases that reached an all-time-high of $6.06 per gallon of regular fuel in March.

The CNMI then finally saw its first gas rollback in mid-March, with oil companies bringing regular fuel down to $5.86. The rollback was followed by yet another increase at the end of March with fuel going back up to $6.01. ***(With AP)***

UNITED

From Page 1

terms of direct flight service from Saipan to Narita, is for six months. However, the agreement allows an extension for up to one year.

According to Sam Shinohara, United Airlines' managing director of airport operations for Asia Pacific, there has already been a lot of buzz in Japan from press releases alone and United Airlines expects more individuals to start booking Japan-Saipan flights as official advertisements and promotions are released.

"[On] the day we launched [TRIP Japan], there were a handful of bookings that we saw in the system already. So there were some pretty quick takers and that was just from a press release from the MVA, the governor's office, and United Airlines, nothing else. Now that the real promotional activities are about to start, there has been a lot of interest and a lot of buzz about the new destination. As I said, Saipan's got a lot to offer for visitors from Japan and I think this agreement will work well," he said.

United Airlines' inaugural flight for TRIP Japan is set to arrive on Sept. 1 and will be the first of many flights that are expected to bring in over 8,000 Japanese visitors to Saipan throughout the rest of the year.

United Airlines will be starting off with three weekly flights but, depending on the load factor, there is still a possibility of increasing the number of flights in a week.

According to MVA managing director Priscilla Iakopo, MVA is extremely excited to be welcoming back Japanese tourists.

"Having to welcome our Japan market once again is truly important because tourism was borne out of the Japanese so we value that partnership and that friendship and we definitely want to maintain that," she said.

The three officials spoke about the upcoming flights from Japan during a news briefing last Saturday at the Aqua Resort Club.

SENATE

From Page 1

representative Andrew Sablan Salas.

This developed as Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Kayla Igitol over the weekend reminded the political parties and candidates that this Monday, July 11, is the first day for submission of nominating petitions and candidacies. Aug. 10 is the last day of submission of nominating petitions and candidacy documents, she added.

Two Saipan Senate positions will be vacant in January 2023 upon the expiration of the terms of Sens. Vinnie F. Sablan and Justo S. Quitugua, who are both Republicans.

Sablan is running for lieutenant governor as Gov. Ralph DLG Torres' running mate in the coming election. It's not clear yet whether Quitugua is running this election.

Saipan Tribune learned from the CNMI's Republican Party over the weekend that Demapan and Maratita will be the party's candidates for Saipan senators. Demapan is the current minority leader of the House of Representatives. He was first elected to the House in 2014 and re-elected in 2016. He was elected again to the House in 2020.

Maratita first assumed office as a member of the House, representing Precinct 1 in January 2017. She was re-elected, but did not seek re-election in the November 2020 general election.

Magofna ran as a Democrat and won a Precinct 3 seat in the House during a special election in October 2021 to replace the seat left vacant by the sudden death of Rep. Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan) in July 2021. She earlier announced that she is seeking re-election this November as an independent candidate, but was then reported to be seeking a Senate post instead, also as an independent candidate.

Babauta, a Democrat, was elected to the House, representing Precinct 1 in November 2020. She has yet to reply to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comment about her plan for this November election. Posters about her candidacy to run as senator, however, can be seen along several road sides.

The Democratic Party is expected to announce soon their candidates for the House and Senate.

Salas is a former lawmaker and Commerce secretary. He was the CNMI Democratic Party's candidate for U.S. delegate in the November 2014 election. Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) won that election.

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INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-22-034

PROVISION OF OPERATIONS, MAINTENANCE, AND MANAGEMENT SERVICES FOR THE POWER GENERATION PLANT SYSTEMS ON THE ISLAND OF TINIAN

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the provision of operations, maintenance, and management services for the Power Plant Systems on the Island of Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of **$200.00** (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked "CUC-IFB-22-034, Operations, Maintenance, and Management Services for The Power Plant Systems on the island of Tinian" to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 28, 2022** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Payment Bond of one hundred (100%) percent and a Performance Bond of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful bidders. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All bidders are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on July 8, 2022,** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Marcela Tenorio, at email marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan at email christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS
CUC-RSOQ-22-028

Design, Construction Management, and Other Professional Services for Various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects on the Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting Statement of Qualifications from qualified architecture & engineering (A&E) firms for the design of various water and wastewater infrastructure including but not limited to water distribution and transmission main, sewer main (gravity and pressure), sewer manholes, sewer lift stations, water booster pump stations, water storage reservoirs, water treatment systems, wastewater treatment systems, upgrades to existing water and wastewater facilities; providing archaeological and UXO studies and monitoring, providing biological assessments, providing project management services, providing construction management services including but not limited to submittal review, clarification and technical assistance related to contract plans and specifications, field engineering due to changes in conditions during construction, construction inspection, review of partial payment requests, surveying, and other related engineering services on various CUC Water and Wastewater Projects.

The proposed projects are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and all future Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding, ARPA funded grants, EDA grants, DOI/OIA grants, Saipan Local Appropriations, and FEMA grants. All work is subject to grantors approval.

The RSOQ package will be provided via email to the registered email ID upon completion of registration at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays.

One (1) original and Five (5) copies of the SOQ must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked *"CUC-RSOQ 22-028, Request for Statement of Qualifications"* to CUC Procurement & Supply Division, 3rd Floor, Room No.3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O.Box 501220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than 10:00 a.m. (ChST) on July 13, 2022.** Statements of Qualifications mailed via postal or courier service must be received or postmarked on or before due date and time. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A&E firms are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the A&E firms due to lack of information or understanding of the RSOQ requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a SOQ under the contract.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible/qualified A&E firms who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. A&E firms shall be accorded fair and equal during discussions; there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

This RSOQ does not commit CUC to the award of a contract or contracts, nor to pay any cost incurred in the preparation and submission of statements of qualifications in anticipation of a contract. This request and the ensuing contract shall be executed pursuant to the CUC procurement regulations. The contractor shall be required to comply with all CNMI and applicable federal regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 a.m. (ChST) on June 21, 2022** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to Larry Manacop, CUC Acting Water/Wastewater Chief Engineer via email address larry.manacop@cucgov.org and Marcela Tenorio, Administrative Technician Senior via email address, marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all Statement of Qualifications for any reason and to waive any defects in said RSOQ, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All Statement of Qualifications shall become the property of CUC.

CHRETIEN T. VOERG
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Officer

King-Hinds: I'm happy we can now move on from this issue

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is thankful that the issue whether CPA should or should not be exempted from paying the 1% Office of the Public Auditor fee on its airport revenues is now over with the enactment of a new law that makes the exemption possible.

Last week, Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who was then the acting governor, signed into law House Bill 22-102, in the form of HS1, HD1, that exempts the CPA from paying OPA's 1% fee that would come from CPA's airport revenues.

In a brief response to the bill's passing, CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds said she is just happy that OPA and CPA can move on from the issue.

"CPA is thankful to Speaker Edmund Villagomez and Senate President Jude Hofschneider for their leadership throughout this process. This is a task I can now mark as completed. There's a lot of work to be done and I'm happy that we can move on from this issue," she said.

King-Hinds

The exemption under Public Law 22-18 only applies to CPA and its airport revenues. Thus far, the Northern Marianas Housing Corp., the Public School System, the Legislature, and now CPA are exempted by statute from paying the OPA fee.

In a previous interview with King-Hinds, she said that conversations surrounding the 1% OPA fee has been an ongoing issue with the Legislature dating back years.

King-Hinds noted that CPA depends on the revenue it generates to fund operations, personnel, maintenance and improvements at the ports and any additional costs, including the 1% OPA fee, is passed on to either CPA tenants or the traveling public.

CPA does not object to being charged the 1% OPA fee for non-airport revenues. It was another matter, though, with CPA's airport revenues, as it could possibly violate CPA's grant requirements with the Federal Aviation Administration.

"As far as CPAs concerned, we're agnostic as to whether or not we have to pay or not pay the 1%. What we're trying to do basically is comply with our grant assurance requirements, and what the FAA is saying is [in regards to this 1% fee] is that if we're not spending money directly toward operations of the airport, and using whatever revenues that we're collecting, it's called revenue diversion. That's not our rule. It's a rule that we have to comply with," she said.

Ultimately, CPA explained that the money is there, it just hasn't been remitted to the CNMI government due to FAA rules they must comply with.

Rota delegation honors Herman Atalig

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Rota Legislative Delegation passed Friday a local bill that would name the Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps building at the Rita H. Inos Junior/Senior High School in Liyo, Rota, as the Sgt. Maj. Herman Manglona Atalig JROTC Building in recognition and appreciation of Atalig's "untiring and outstanding contributions to the Public School System and to the people of the Commonwealth."

Sen. Teresita A. Santos (Ind-Rota), author of Senate Local Bill 22-13, said that Atalig honorably served in the U.S. Army from June 1968 to April 1996 as an infantryman. In 1968, at the age of 20, Atalig was drafted into the Army where he was an infantry point man during the Vietnam War. Later in his career, Atalig served during the Panama invasion.

During his military career, Atalig held many positions, the most rewarding being with the Republic of Korea Marine ranger and Recondo school instructor; senior drill sergeant instructor and Rutgers University ROTC instructor; Sergeant Major Inspector General; Operation Sergeant Major for Forces Command; and Senior Army Enlisted Advisor for the Reserve Component in Guam.

Atalig received numerous award and badges, and commendations.

Aafter 28 years in active duty, Atalig returned to Rota to fulfill a promise made to his father that he would return home to serve his community. For the next 16 years, Atalig was the senior Army instructor for the Rota H. Inos High School's JROTC Program.

Right now, Atalig is serving his second four-year term in the Public School System State Board of Education.

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Marianas Insurance Company, Ltd Plaintiff, -vs- DAVE PICENTE and YAPING TAO, Defendants.	:	CIVIL ACTION NO. 22-0058
	:	ORDER AFTER HEARING

This matter, on appeal to the Superior Court from Small Claims Court Case No. 20-0105, came for a status conference on June 15, 2022. Present was Mark Scoggins as Counsel for Marianas Insurance. Neither Defendant had been served with notice of the hearing and neither appeared.

FOR GOOD CAUSE the COURT hereby ORDERS as follows:

1. The parties shall prepare briefs on the topic of the Small Claims Court's jurisdiction over cases involving insurance subrogation claims. In addition to the parties' other arguments, the parties shall provide briefing on jurisdictions in which subrogation cases are heard in small claims courts, and specifically the practice in California.

2. All parties shall submit their briefs on or before July 8, 2022.

3. This order shall be published in a newspaper on July 1, 6 and 8, 2022.

4. A hearing to consider the parties' arguments shall be held on July 13, 2022 at 9:00 a.m.

IT IS SO ORDERED.

/s/ HON. ROBERTO C. NARAJA
Presiding Judge

Kilili bill seeks to allow NMI to apply for child welfare court improvement grants

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced Friday a bill that would provide more funding for CNMI courts to ensure the welfare of children in foster care and adoption proceedings.

Sablan

Sablan disclosed in his e-kilili newsletter over the weekend that under H.R. 8233 or the Court Improvement Equity Act that he introduced, CNMI courts would be allowed to apply for a $255,000 basic state-share of grant money for this purpose.

The legislation would authorize grants to be made on an equitable basis to highest courts to assess and improve the handling of foster care and adoption proceedings.

He said the Marianas is currently the only U.S. jurisdiction not able to apply for child welfare court improvement grants under the Social Security Act.

Sablan said his legislation was developed in consultation with the Commonwealth Judiciary.

"My advocacy on behalf of the bill is supported by their plans on how the funds would be used to improve training for temporary guardians, increase staff capacity, and collect data that can be shared with other relevant agencies in the Marianas," said Sablan, as he thanked the CNMI Judiciary for working together with him on this legislation. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Federated States of Micronesia's Foreign Affairs Secretary Kandhi A. Elieisar delivers his remarks at the signing ceremony for the formal hand-over of the *Hapilmohol-2*, a 600-ton cargo and passenger ship that will serve the State of Yap. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

People's Republic of China Ambassador Huang Zheng delivers his remarks at the signing ceremony for the hand-over of the *Hapilmohol-2*, a 600-ton cargo and passenger ship that will serve the State of Yap. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

China donates a third ship to FSM to serve Yap State

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Federated States of Micronesia Foreign Affairs Secretary Kandhi A. Elieisar received People's Republic of China Ambassador Huang Zheng last June 28, 2022, for a signing ceremony regarding the formal hand-over of the *Hapilmohol-2*, a 600-ton cargo and passenger ship that will serve the State of Yap, and take part in nationwide services as necessary.

The contract for the *Hapilmohol-2* was signed on Oct. 15, 2020. It is designed to have a cruising range of 2,500 nautical miles and an endurance of 15 days. Included within the contract is an agreement that, starting from the second year after the ship's delivery, upon the conclusion of its one-year warranty period, China will be responsible for dispatching four technicians to the FSM each year to carry out a 14-day technical inspection on the ship's maintenance for four consecutive years.

"I am pleased to partake in this formal exercise to finally turnover this beautiful ship," said Elieisar in his remarks. "In this connection, let me thank the Chinese crew who took pains… to bring the vessel to the shores of Yap State, and waited on the ship in compliance of our quarantine requirements."

Elieisar thanked the Chinese government "for agreeing to realize this official handover ceremony today between our two governments. I also want to thank Yap State and its leadership through the support of [Secretary Carlson D. Apis of the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure] and his staff for also agreeing to proceed with this signing ceremony, so that the State of Yap can endeavor to use the ship pending a required and final turnover from the national government to the state government."

The *Hapilmohol-2* is the third ship donated by China to the FSM, with the previous two ships being the MV *Hapilmohol-1* and the MV *Chief Mailo*, which have historically focused their service in the States of Yap and Chuuk respectively.

"We can all agree that the three graciously donated vessels from China," Elieisar said, "are important marine transport assets that literally bring our islands and peoples together as a nation and as a people. They help glorify who we are and render honor to our oceanic lifestyle as well as to the great friendship we have with China."

In his remarks, Huang said "[The *Hapilmohol-2*] is another testament of the sincerest and most selfless assistance from China to the FSM."

"What we are witnessing today is just another example of bringing ships to the FSM which will greatly enhance the well-being of the FSM's people. We know that the donation of the H-2 has been highly appreciated by the FSM government and the FSM's people," Huang said. "The bilateral trade volume between China and the FSM increased by more than 30% last year, bringing tangible benefits to the people, fully demonstrating the potential for cooperation between China and the FSM. Despite changes in the international landscape, China will always hold fast to 'four-pronged adherence' to developing relations with Pacific island countries, including the FSM, and be a good friend and good partner pursuing common development with the FSM on the basis of mutual respect, equality, and mutual benefit."

The FSM and China established diplomatic relations on Sept. 11, 1989. ***(PR)***

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Russian threat is real for G-7, NATO

By definition, meetings of global leaders are important even if they're not always consequential.

This week's G-7 and NATO summits were substantive, particularly in producing a more clear-eyed view of Russia. Whether the decisions and declarations made are enough to turn the tide for Ukraine in its existential fight against Russia's invasion remains to be seen. Still, the commitment of enduring support was critical.

At the G-7 summit in Germany that began the week, leaders from the seven largest industrial democracies (the U.S., U.K., France, Germany, Italy, Japan and Canada) agreed to continue providing military and humanitarian aid to Ukraine.

"We are committed to helping Ukraine to uphold its sovereignty and territorial integrity, to defend itself, and to choose its own future," the leaders said in a statement. "It is up to Ukraine to decide on a future peace settlement, free from external pressure or influence. We will continue to coordinate efforts to meet Ukraine's urgent requirements for military and defense equipment."

One of those necessary requests was an advanced missile defense system, which the Biden administration indicated it would supply as part of recently passed legislation authorizing another $40 billion to aid Ukraine. The need was already apparent but amplified by Russia hitting the capital Kyiv with missile strikes on Sunday and a crowded shopping mall in the central Ukrainian city of Kremenchuk on Monday, killing at least 18 and wounding scores more. The mall "had no strategic value," Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy wrote on social media. "Only the attempt of people to live a normal life, which so angers the occupiers."

In fact, Russian President Vladimir Putin "doesn't care where his army is attacking sites in Ukraine; they don't distinguish between military and civilian sites," Melinda Haring, deputy director of the Atlantic Council's Eurasia Center, told an editorial writer. Putin, Haring said, "thinks in terms of history, and he wants to make a big impact. Casualty rates don't matter to him."

They matter to Zelenskyy, of course, and to Ukrainians and civilized people everywhere. The only way to reduce the grim death toll is to stiffen Ukraine's resistance with more capabilities. NATO committed to doing just that, and the G-7 announced plans to ban imports of Russian gold and cap its oil prices. The gold import ban will be relatively straightforward, but the still-developing mechanisms to limit the profit Putin enjoys from the world's energy crisis are more in the consideration phase.

More concrete conclusions could be found at the subsequent NATO summit in Spain. Turkey lifted its objections to Sweden and Finland joining NATO, resulting in an alliance expansion that is the opposite of one of Putin's purported goals of his full-scale invasion in February.

President Joe Biden also announced an increased troop presence in Europe and said for the first time the U.S. would have a permanent presence in Poland with the U.S. Army V Corps forward command, designed to improve interop-

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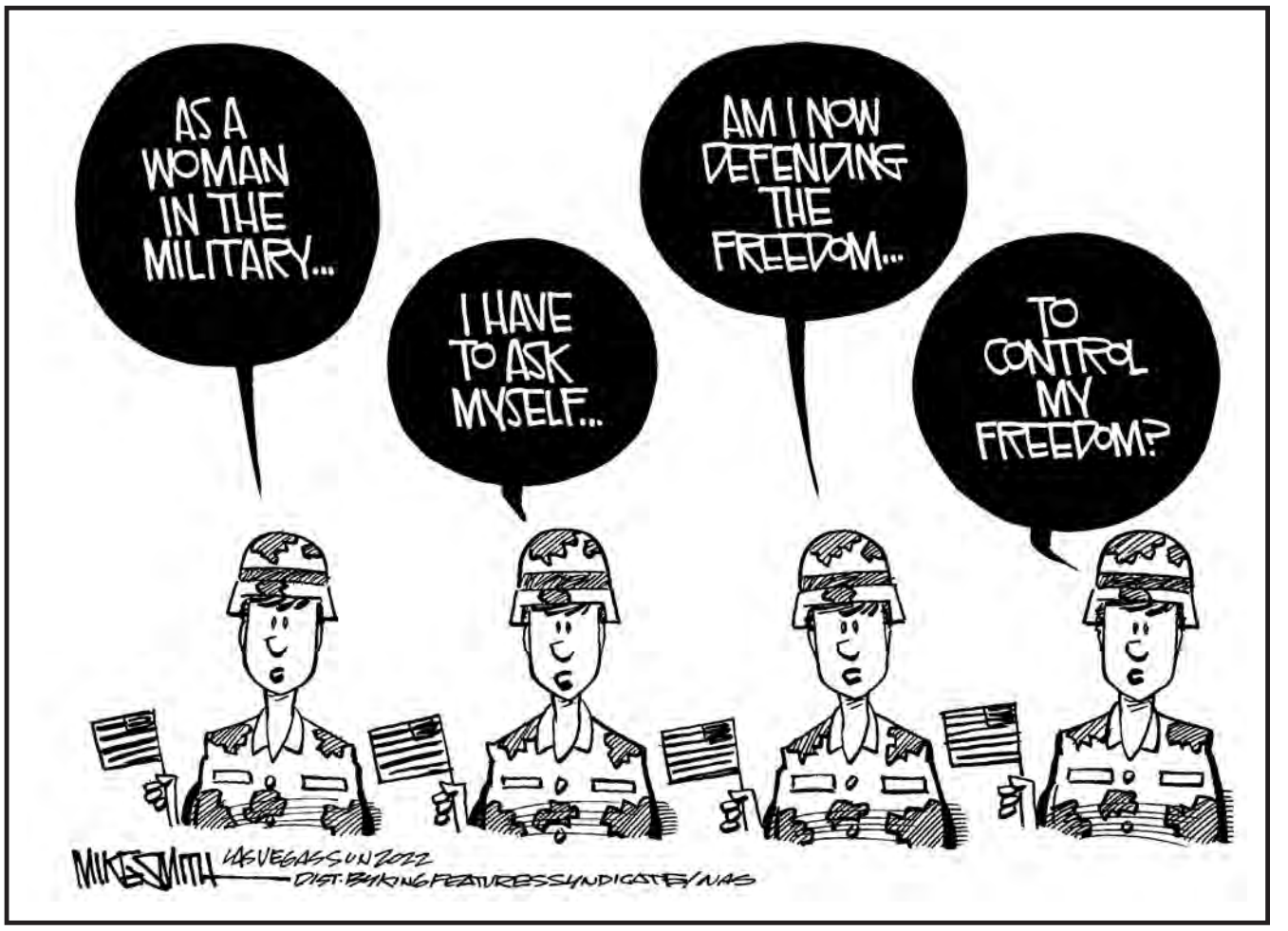
AS A WOMAN IN THE MILITARY...
I HAVE TO ASK MYSELF...
AM I NOW DEFENDING THE FREEDOM...
TO CONTROL MY FREEDOM?
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If we want Russia to free Brittney Griner, Americans must show some principles ourselves

By LZ GRANDERSON
Los Angeles Times

LZ Granderson is an Op-Ed columnist for the Los Angeles Times.

Asadullah Haroon Gul went home last week.

Since 2007, the Afghan native had been detained at Guantanamo Bay—without a trial. Serendipitous timing, wouldn't you say?

Just as the Supreme Court was threatening half a century of progress on human rights as it overturned Roe v. Wade, the U.S. also took time to remind the world that:

1. the greatest democracy on the planet was almost killed off by a former reality TV host, and

2. we've kept a man in prison for 15 years without a trial.

America … you in danger, girl.

And no, I'm not suggesting we are the villains in this story. I am simply pointing out we are not the only ones with a story to tell. The world hears our voice, but it also sees our actions. The more those two drift apart, the more interesting observers will find the other stories about who and what we are.

Keeping a prisoner detained for 15 years without a trial is more than just a bad look: It's the antithesis of who we say we are. But to keep that same prisoner detained months after one of our own federal judges ruled that doing so was unlawful … well, with this kind of mentality here in the U.S., it's no mystery why some of our friends give us the side eye.

A Pew Research Center poll last year found that people in only 17% of advanced economies say democracy in the U.S. "is a good example for others to follow." The rest of the developed world either thinks the U.S. "used to be a good example but has not been in recent years" or believes we never were. I guess our friends noticed when we swapped "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall" for "Build the wall."

In the short term, maybe this slippage in standing doesn't have many practical effects. After all, one of the benefits of being a superpower is having the resources to pay for friends and buy influence. But we are kidding ourselves if we believe our hypocrisy hasn't gotten stale.

I am concerned about our diminished moral standing in general and especially how that decline may affect Brittney Griner, the basketball star from Texas who was detained by the Russian government in February and accused of possession of hashish oil. Griner has been held since then and faces trial starting Friday.

Like many Americans, I want her home. And I am hopeful the State Department can reach a deal with Russia to do just that. Despite the United States' response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the two nations did manage a prisoner swap that enabled a former Marine, Trevor Reed, to come home in April.

But Reed had been arrested in 2019. Even if a similar deal is possible for Griner, it may not be reached anytime soon. Jason Rezaian, the former Tehran bureau chief for the Washington Post who was arrested in 2014, titled his book "Prisoner: My 544 Days in an Iranian Prison." He was held for nine months before his lawyers were even told details of the charges against him.

Another American, Paul Whelan, was arrested in Russia in 2018, accused of espionage, and he still is not home.

None of these arrests have been viewed as justified by the United States. The arresting countries feel differently—and insist on telling their own stories.

So what story are we telling about U.S. values when we keep prisoners from other countries locked away for more than a decade without due process?

Despite our vast resources, when it comes to securing the release of Americans who are unjustly detained around the world, there is only so much that even President Biden or Secretary of State Antony J. Blinken can do. But when it comes to freeing individuals we unjustly hold prisoner ourselves, well, let's just say the president has some pull.

It's been 20 years since we opened Guantanamo Bay as a war prison, and for most of its existence, the resident of 1600 Pennsylvania Ave. has been someone who campaigned on promises to close it. With Gul out, the number is now down to 36 of the nearly 800 Muslim men and boys who have passed through Guantanamo. According to the ACLU, many of the remaining detainees have never been charged with a crime and 14 have been cleared for transfer or release by our military and national security agencies. Some of those cleared have been waiting to go home for years.

By all means, our country should continue to speak out against human rights violations. But you know what would help our messaging? Ending the practice of indefinite imprisonment without a trial. Considering what we are accusing Russia of doing to Griner and Whelan, it would probably help our Q-rating among our allies and partners if they didn't see us behaving in similar fashion.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

We've betrayed tens of thousands of Afghans who helped us and are under Taliban threat

By TRUDY RUBIN
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Trudy Rubin is a columnist and editorial-board member for the Philadelphia Inquirer. *Readers may write to her at:* Philadelphia Inquirer, *P.O. Box 8263, Philadelphia, Pa. 19101, or by email at trubin@phillynews.com.*

It has been almost one year since the ugly U.S. departure from Kabul. Yet tens of thousands of Afghans who were promised special immigrant visas (SIVs)—meant for those who worked for U.S. soldiers and civilians—remain trapped under terrifying Taliban rule.

Even for those eligible for SIVs, it could take years—if ever—to be issued one, given the glacial pace of the process. Hunted by name by the Taliban, many applicants may be dead or imprisoned long before their number comes up.

As the United States (rightly) rolls back bureaucratic red tape to welcome Ukrainians as temporary refugees, it is shameful to abandon those Afghans to whom we made promises.

"We left far too many behind," I was told by Rep. Seth Moulton, D-Mass., a veteran of the Iraq War, who has been at the forefront of pushing for legislation to speed up the process. "It is taking far too long to save people who are depending on us."

Contrary to popular belief, many of the roughly 120,000 Afghans evacuated from Kabul Airport during the chaotic U.S. exit were not those who were promised SIVs. Large numbers of them were people who managed to push their way into the airport or had connections with the U.S. or Afghan military inside the airport.

Other lucky Afghans were rescued by impromptu operations organized by networks of U.S. humanitarian organizations, journalists and U.S. military veterans, working to get staff or translators through Taliban and U.S. military checkpoints and into the airport.

To recall those desperate days in August, I highly recommend the forthcoming book "The Fifth Act: America's End in Afghanistan," due out Aug. 9. Its author, Elliot Ackerman, a decorated veteran of five tours in Iraq and Afghanistan, was drawn into one of those rescue networks. He brilliantly describes the harrowing rescue efforts, which he ties into the larger tragedy of the Afghan War.

"Everyone scrambled to get out people they knew," Ackerman told me last week, referring to operations by U.S. veterans.

"The people who got out had the right contact list on their cellphone," he added. "U.S. military veterans were being asked to play a Schindler's List game, deciding who gets help and who gets left behind."

Betraying the SIV applicants, says Ackerman, is a "betrayal of our values. We could expedite the visa process. But the administration just wants the SIVs to go away, allowing infinitesimal numbers in."

The numbers certainly support that conclusion.

The State Department estimates as many as 160,000 Afghan allies along with immediate family members are eligible for SIVs, according to a Politico report. The eligible group—including military translators, left-behind embassy staff, staff for USAID projects and techies who helped U.S. contractors—doesn't even include the many thousands more judges, prosecutors, women's rights activists, and journalists who worked on U.S.-funded projects but aren't eligible for SIVs.

Yet State Department flights—which the Taliban still allow to depart from Kabul Airport—evacuate only around 350 Afghans weekly; all evacuees must have SIV applications that are in the final stages of processing. They are flown to Doha in Qatar for final processing before admission to the U.S.

That leaves untold thousands of Afghans under severe Taliban threat because they were closely associated with Americans; their names are often on electronic employment lists that the Taliban retrieved.

One example: a family I've been trying to help who is headed by a leading Afghan judge with stellar credentials and a recommendation by a U.S. general he worked with. The general's support has not accelerated his case.

The Taliban is searching for the jurist, so he and his family are living in hiding, the children unable to go to school, and the family fearful even to go outside to shop for food. Their money is running out. Three family members are SIV-eligible, including a women's rights activist, yet they are all only at the beginning of the visa process. The family is in such danger that I cannot use their names.

Another option that should be available to the jurist's family—which is now being used to expedite the arrival of Ukrainian refugees—is humanitarian parole status, which waives normal visa requirements and allows a temporary stay in the United States. Under this option, Ukrainians fleeing the Russian invasion can remain in the U.S. for two years if sponsored by relatives or other U.S. citizens.

"In the Ukrainian case," I was told by Adam Bates, a lawyer with the International Refugees Assistance Program, "the administration did workarounds to let previously unknown Ukrainians enter in weeks. Why not let known Afghans in?" If sponsors were needed, many U.S. veterans could be found to host their former Afghan translators while they waited for SIV approvals.

Yet according to Moulton, of around 45,000 Afghan applications for humanitarian parole, 2,500 have been considered and denied, and only around 270 conditionally approved.

The different treatment of Ukrainians and Afghans can't be attributed simply to red tape in processing the latter.

True, there is a pressing need to simplify the overly complex SIV process, and to increase the number of processing personnel, but nothing will truly change without specific direction from the White House.

"When you look at how fast the Ukrainian situation was put in operation," said Bates, "I don't know how you can justify the Afghan situation. There is a lack of will to get this done coming from the White House."

"The Ukrainian situation shows what happens when the administration is truly committed to processing admissions," Bates said. "Where there is a will, there is a way."

Supreme Court was right to block the EPA's unconstitutional power grab

By DERRICK MORGAN
The Heritage Foundation

Derrick Morgan is the executive vice president of The Heritage Foundation.

The Spirit of '76 is alive and well at the Supreme Court. Back then, the colonials rejected the rule of a far-away, unaccountable government. After securing their freedom, they quickly organized a government that gave Congress, the duly elected representatives of the people, responsibility for making national policy decisions.

This week, the Supreme Court acted in accord with that spirit by rejecting a power grab by the Environmental Protection Agency and reserving for Congress the right to set far-reaching climate change policy.

The central question in West Virginia v. EPA came down to this: Who is responsible for determining if carbon emissions are a problem and whether something should be done about it? You may recall that President Barack Obama spent more than a year trying to convince Congress to pass a comprehensive bill to reduce emissions as a way of trying to stem climate change. Ultimately, he even threatened Congress, saying that if lawmakers didn't act to reduce carbon emissions, he would – with his pen and his phone. Yet even though his own party had a House majority and a filibuster-proof majority in the Senate, Congress balked at capping carbon emissions.

Obama followed through on his threats in the form of the "Clean Power Plan" – the EPA's proposal to force whole states and utilities to stop using fossil fuels in favor of less reliable, and often more expensive, sources like wind and solar. Always inventive, Obama asserted that the EPA could stretch the authorities in the Clean Air Act, written in 1970 to deal with toxic pollutants.

Up to that point, the law had been used to reduce toxic emissions source by source, using the best available technology. So, for example, the EPA could require an available scrubber be added to a coal plant to reduce sulfur dioxide. Now, Obama claimed, the EPA could use a systems approach and require states and utilities to switch fuel sources altogether, essentially completely remaking the entire electricity grid.

Several states, led by West Virginia, sued the EPA. They got their hearing before the Supreme Court this February. On Thursday, the court ruled that Congress must specify authority clearly for an agency to be authorized to implement a policy of such vast economic and political significance.

Justice Antonin Scalia once wrote that Congress does not "hide elephants in mouseholes." Yes, agencies can "fill in the blanks" where they are given direction, for example, by setting the amount of sulfur dioxide that can come out of a coal plant. But they cannot take it upon themselves to change the entire electricity grid.

No matter what your view of climate change, we should all agree that Congress is the right venue to have this issue debated and decided. Unlike the EPA's employees, who can't be voted out of office, lawmakers are accountable to "We, the People." Representatives and Senators can make compromises that include carefully considered trade-offs, and their work will endure past one administration.

President Joe Biden has pledged to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 50-52% by 2030. My colleagues at The Heritage Foundation estimate that taking the steps needed to make such drastic reductions would result in nearly 8 million lost jobs in 2026, a 90 percent increase in gasoline prices, and a more than $7 trillion hit to the economy. That's vast economic significance, indeed.

And it's why the "elephant" of carbon capping policy should be debated by Congress, not advanced through rulemaking by unaccountable bureaucrats. In fact, carbon reductions have been debated repeatedly – and always rejected, including in 2006 and 2010. Some are not happy with that result, but their dissatisfaction should motivate them to persuade their neighbors of the wisdom of their policy.

Now, thanks to the West Virginia v. EPA decision, Biden's climate plans and the inevitable trade-offs can be examined through hearings and a robust debate by representatives who are accountable to the people.

RUSSIAN

From Page 8

erability along NATO's eastern front. The U.S. will also boost its rotational deployment of forces in the Baltics and Romania. And NATO leaders released a new "Strategic Concept" that, among other updates, moves Russia from a potential partner to the "most significant and direct threat" the alliance faces.

The allied unity expressed at the G-7 summit was "pitch-perfect," Haring said. "They said very, very clearly that 'we've got your back, Ukraine, as long as it takes.'" But she cautioned that Putin will not cease Russia's efforts in eastern Ukraine and may again try for a broader conquest. "Time is not on Ukraine's side. If you want Ukraine to win, if you want to minimize deaths, Washington has to stop braking" its arms shipments.

With the U.S. commitment to the missile defense system, Biden sent the proper signal, but he must accelerate sending other desperately needed materiel to Ukraine. Although NATO's newfound sense of mission will probably deter Putin from expanding his aggression to member countries, Ukraine is a critical test that the West must not fail.

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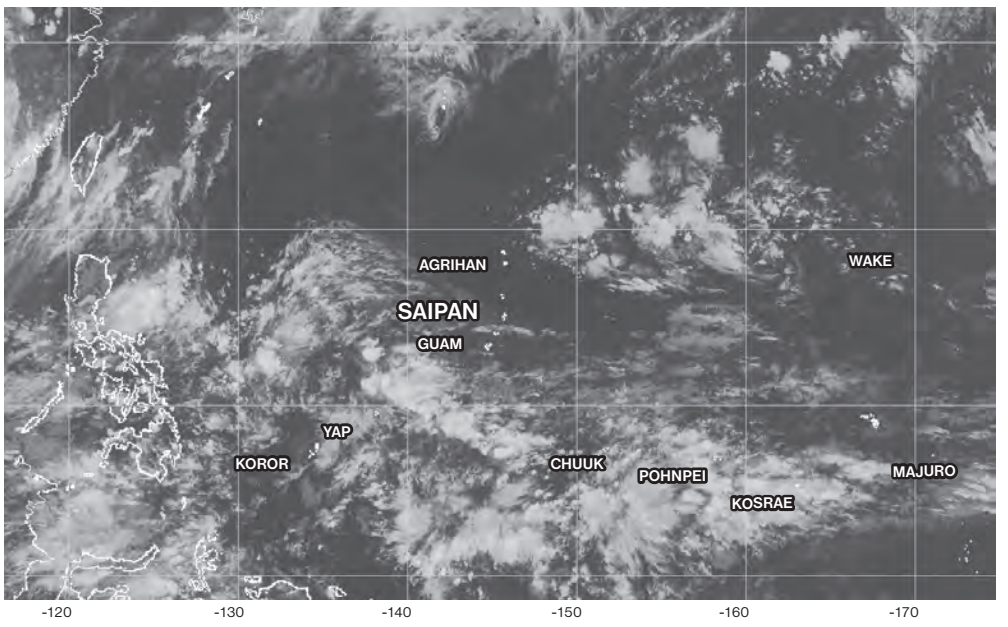
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.	Isolated showers. Mostly sunny.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy.	A chance of showers. Mostly cloudy.
87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:33 AM, TUESDAY, JULY 5, 2022

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Skies are mostly cloudy across the Marianas this morning, but the clouds are of the high thin variety, and the only showers on Guam radar are isolated showers around Tinian and Saipan. Trade winds are gentle to moderate, and seas range from 3 to near 5 feet at the buoys.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	87° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	86° / 78°
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:51 AM	6:51 PM
Thursday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Friday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Saturday	5:52 AM	6:51 PM
Sunday	5:53 AM	6:51 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	11:30 AM	11:54 PM	-
Thursday	12:20 PM	-	-
Friday	-	12:31 AM	1:13 PM
Saturday	-	1:12 AM	2:09 PM
Sunday	-	1:56 AM	3:10 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	75° / 63°
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	79° / 64°
London	Showers	55° / 34°
Los Angeles	Sunny	78° / 50°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 75°
Melbourne	Rain	73° / 52°
Miami	Mostly Sunny	81° / 72°
New York	Partly Cloudy	50° / 34°
Osaka	Mostly Sunny	55° / 45°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Busan	Mostly Sunny	54° / 30°
Rome	Sunny	57° / 41°
Salem	Cloudy	52° / 39°
San Francisco	Sunny	60° / 45°
Seoul	Mostly Sunny	39° / 19°
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	54° / 39°
Washington, DC	Partly Cloudy	48° / 33°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:56 AM	High Tide	2.04
7:13 AM	Low Tide	1.17
11:52 AM	High Tide	1.64
6:34 PM	Low Tide	0.55

STOP THE SPREAD

The Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. continue to encourage residents within the Marianas to practice social distancing, which means avoiding close contact with people in order to avoid catching the virus yourself and to avoid passing it on to others.

■ Stay home as much as possible. Avoid unnecessary travel or public places.

■ Avoid social gatherings in groups of more than 10.

■ Choose drive-thru, take-out, or delivery options, or outdoor seating, if available, when dining in.

■ Send only one healthy adult from the household run necessary errands, such as getting groceries or picking up medications. Leave children, elderly, and other vulnerable people at home as much as possible. When returning home from an errand, wash your hands before doing anything else.

■ Older adults and people with chronic medical conditions are at higher risk of getting very sick from this illness. People at high risk should stay at home as much as possible.

■ Create a household plan of action, https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prepare/checklisthousehold-ready.html

■ Ensure a 30-day supply of all medicines.

Continue good hand hygiene

■ Wash your hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water, avoid touching your face, cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or your sleeve.

■ Use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not readily available.

Know the signs and symptoms of COVID-19 and what to do if you become symptomatic

■ Stay home when you are sick and if you recently traveled to a place with COVID-19. Self-quarantine means:

• Choosing a room in your house that can be used to separate sick household members from others.

• Washing your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

• Avoiding touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.

• Limiting visitors

CHCC appreciates the patience and understanding of the community at this time. To obtain general information about the CNMI COVID-19 response, contact the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force Hotline at 287-0046, 287-0489, 287-1089. These numbers are available Monday to Sunday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For medical information about COVID-19, reach out to the COVID-19 Infoline at the following numbers: 285-1672/1352. These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30pm.

For mental health support and helpful tips during a crisis, call the Mental Health Support Line at 285-1856, 323-6560, 323-6561 These numbers are available Monday to Friday, 7:30am - 4:30 pm. For the 24/7 Disaster Distress Helpline, call SAMSHA at 1-800-985-5990.

For more information about DIY face coverings, visit https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/prevent-getting-sick/cloth-face-cover.html

For more information about CHCC programs, follow CHCC on Facebook, Instagram, Twitter at @cnmichcc, check out our website at www.chcc.gov.mp or call us at (670) 234-8950.

For more information on the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force, visit www.governor.gov.mpand, follow @GovernorCNMI on Facebook, Instagram, and Twitter.

This health advisory may be found online at http://www.chcc.gov.mp/pressrelease.html and at www.governor.gov.mp/covid-19.

Rumor control

During crises like this, oftentimes the spread of misinformation is just as dangerous as the virus itself. The CNMI is reminded to only share official and verified notices, press releases, and advisories from the Governor's COVID-19 Task Force and CHCC.

Source: Office of the Governor

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

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E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 1, 2022

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	6:30PM	7:15PM	6

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	6:00AM	8:00AM	Daily
UA193	7:05PM	10:55PM	5 via Palau
UA183	7:10PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW9308	3:30PM	7:20PM	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3405	3:30PM	7:25PM	4, 6
RS112	3:45PM	7:30PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3405	3:50PM	7:45PM	3, 7
OZ624	4:00PM	7:40PM	3, 6

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

BX621	3:10PM	6:30PM	3, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily
UA112	4:40PM	5:30PM	6

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:00PM	4:00AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:40AM+1	5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1,2,3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	8:30AM	2:10PM	4, 6, 7
RS111	8:45AM	2:05PM	3, 6 up to July 2 only
7C3406	8:50AM	2:30PM	3
TW9307	9:00AM	2:30PM	4, 6, 7
OZ623	9:00AM	2:30PM	3, 6
TW9307	9:15AM	2:30PM	3

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

BX621	8:00AM	1:10PM	3, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

Add rent to the rising costs bedeviling small businesses

NEW YORK (AP)—The rent has come due for America's small businesses and at a very inopportune time.

Landlords were lenient about rent payments during the first two years of the pandemic. Now, many are asking for back rent, and some are raising the current rent as well. Meanwhile, most of the government aid programs that helped small businesses get through the pandemic have ended while inflation has sharply pushed up the cost of supplies, shipping, and labor.

Martin Garcia, owner of gift and décor store Gramercy Gift Gallery in San Antonio, Texas, survived the first part of the pandemic in part by paying his landlord whatever rent he could each month. Then in August 2021, after the federal moratorium on evictions ended, his landlord asked for the full amount of back rent that he owed.

AP

Martin Garcia, owner of gift and décor store Gramercy Gift Gallery, poses for a photo at his shop, Wednesday, June 29, 2022, in San Antonio.

"I needed $10,000 in 15 days," Garcia said. He took whatever loans he could find —often at high interest rates —and barely met the deadline.

A strong holiday season helped him pay back his loans, but so far this year sales have slipped, and he used credit card financing to pay his June rent. Garcia thinks some of his customers are cutting back on non-essentials to afford to pay the higher prices for gasoline and other must-have items.

Thirty-three percent of all U.S. small businesses could not pay their May rent in full and on time, up from 28% in April, according to a survey from Alignable, a small business referral network. And 52% said rent has increased over the past six months.

"Many small businesses are still frankly recovering from whatever the last phase of COVID was," said Chuck Casto, head of corporate communications at Alignable. "Plus, they're dealing with a years' worth of increasing inflation on top of that. It's made it difficult for small businesses to really make a go of it."

Ris Lacoste owns a namesake restaurant, Ris, in Washington, D.C., and is staying afloat using aid she got from the Restaurant Relief Fund to pay her rent. But the money must be spent by March of 2023.

"What I have to do to stay alive after that, every single penny that I can save has to go into reserve," Lacoste said. To cut corners she's refinishing tables to cut down on linen costs, not printing color copies of menus, and working with 22 staffers instead of the 50 she once had.

Before the pandemic, the 7,000-square-foot restaurant was often full, but it isn't "back to full occupancy at all," Ris said. At the same time, inflation is compounding the cost of doing business.

"Payroll is up labor is up, the cost of goods is up, utilities are going up," Lacoste said. "I'm wearing 20 hats instead of 10, and working six days a week, 12 hours a day."

But rent isn't something she can control, and that adds to the stress.

"You're working for the landlord, how long do you want to do that, how long will you survive?" she said. "It's not sustainable."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Asia shares rise on optimism about easing COVID restrictions

TOKYO (AP)—Asian shares advanced Monday across the board as buying set in after the lull of a U.S. national holiday. Analysts said the optimism may be driven by expectations the U.S. may decide to cut Chinese tariffs, a welcome move that would also help tame inflation. China's Commerce Ministry said Tuesday that Vice Premier Liu He spoke with Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen about coordinating economic policy between the two biggest economies and maintaining the stability of supply chains. In a statement, it also said the Chinese side "expressed its concern over issues such as the removal of additional tariffs and sanctions imposed by the United States on China and fair treatment of Chinese companies." The two sides agreed to continue their discussions, it said. Investors also have been encouraged by the lifting of restrictions related to the coronavirus pandemic across the region.

Argentina peso drops as left-leaning economy minister named

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP)—Argentina's peso fell and stock prices dipped Monday after left-leaning Silvina Batakis was named economy minister following the surprise resignation of her more moderate predecessor over the weekend as the country struggles with economic woes. Batakis was named late Sunday to take over from Martín Guzmán, who was largely seen as a moderate voice within President Alberto Fernández's Cabinet. Guzmán had been the target of strong criticism from more left-leaning elements of the governing coalition, including Vice President Cristina Fernández, who is not related to the president. The peso's value was down 18% at one point in the informal market Monday, reaching 280 per dollar, before recovering some late in the day.

Flight cancellations ease slightly as July 4 weekend ends

DALLAS (AP)—Travelers flying home from July Fourth getaways faced flight delays Monday, but airlines were canceling fewer flights than in the days leading up to the holiday weekend. Since holiday weekend travel picked up on Thursday, airlines have canceled more than 2,200 U.S. flights, and another 25,000 were delayed. Airports were packed. More than 9 million flyers flocked to U.S. airports between Thursday and Sunday, peaking at 2.49 million, a pandemic-era record, on Friday, according to figures from the Transportation Security Administration. By late Monday afternoon on the East Coast, more than 2,200 U.S. flights had been delayed and more than 200 canceled, according to FlightAware. The good news: Those numbers were down sharply from recent days.

PIC offers summer promo for families

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

With Pacific Islands Club's 2022 Summer Family Membership Special, you and your family can be sure to stay cool and have fun this summer with full waterpark amenity access and discounts.

From now until Aug. 31, 2022, starting at a one-time payment of $1,299 for one adult and one child, and $499 per additional person 4 years old and above, you will have access to the waterpark, Riverpark, waterslides, Hinemlu Fitness Center, Beach Center, Climbing Wall, windsurfing, sailing, snorkeling, Tennis Center, archery, golf range, mini golf, Kids' Club, Siheky's Playhouse, beach volleyball, gameroom, basketball, sports lessons, and other activities.

Along with full amenity access, members will have discounts as well. You are eligible for a 30% discount at any Food and Beverage outlet (which includes one guest per member), $38/adult, $35/Child "Day Guest 3 Pass" per guest (local ID required), $20 Guest Waterpark Pass (local ID required, maximum four per day per member), $5 per day tennis access per guest (four guests per member). Towels and lockers are available for a $10 deposit per towel or towel/locker combination.

Reymark Castro, who is the Sports, Entertainment, and Activities manager at PIC, is encouraging families to join. "Kids [are] out of school. There's pretty much very limited things to do out there while they're not in school, and they're looking for things to do…"

In addition to having access to PIC's facilities besides the hotel rooms, included in the package is the choice for parents to leave their child or children at the Kids' Club. "What really is the best part of this Summer Family Membership is because of the Kids' Club. [Parents] can drop off their kids at 10am. We watch them all the way until they [parents] pick them up at five [in the afternoon] so they can go to work with no worries, because we're there watching them as their counselor or their teachers," he said.

He assured that all their PIC Clubmates are trained. "Our main duty here at PIC as a Clubmate is being a lifeguard. We're walking AEDs. We are trained to save lives. But, most importantly, we are trained to prevent stuff from happening. Whoever we're dealing with can have a fun, safe, and memorable experience. And that's why I'm very confident that if you leave your kids with us in the Kid's Club, they're safe and they're having fun," said Castro.

He concedes that the membership fee might be a sticking point "but I think it's very practical. You don't find this kind of deal anywhere else and your kids are for sure going to have this as one of [their] most memorable experiences. They will learn as well, because we do have a lot of activities here. They're not going to stop moving, and by the time you pick them up, they're going to be sleeping in your car…and you can do whatever you need to do…after work."

Castro said that they are also able to give lessons on beach activities such as windsurfing and kayaking.

As of now, the promotion is only until Aug. 31, 2022, but will be changed by management if needed.

For more information, call 234-7976 or send an email to dennis.tababa@picsaipan.com.

Nation

6 dead, 30 hurt in shooting at Chicago-area July 4 parade

HIGHLAND PARK, Ill. (AP)—A gunman on a rooftop opened fire on an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago on Monday, killing at least six people, wounding at least 30 and sending hundreds of marchers, parents with strollers and children on bicycles fleeing in terror, police said.

Authorities said a man named as a person of interest in the shooting was taken into police custody Monday evening after an hourslong manhunt in and around Highland Park, an affluent community of about 30,000 on Chicago's north shore.

The July 4 shooting was just the latest to shatter the rituals of American life. Schools, churches, grocery stores and now community parades have all become killing grounds in recent months. This time, the bloodshed came as the nation tried to find cause to celebrate its founding and the bonds that still hold it together.

"It definitely hits a lot harder when it's not only your hometown but it's also right in front of you," resident Ron Tuazon said as he and a friend returned to the parade route Monday evening to retrieve chairs, blankets and a child's bike that he and his family abandoned when the shooting began.

"It's commonplace now," Tuazon said of what he called yet another American atrocity. "We don't blink anymore. Until laws change, it's going to be more of the same."

AP

A Lake Forest, Ill., police officer walks down Central Ave in Highland Park, Ill., on Monday, July 4, 2022, after a shooter fired on the northern suburb's Fourth of July parade.

The shooting occurred at a spot on the parade route where many residents had staked out prime viewing points early in the day for the annual celebration. Dozens of fired bullets sent hundreds of parade-goers—some visibly bloodied—fleeing. They left a trail of abandoned items that showed everyday life suddenly, violently disrupted: A half-eaten bag of potato chips; a box of chocolate cookies spilled onto the grass; a child's Chicago Cubs cap.

"There's no safe place," said Highland Park resident Barbara Harte, 73, who had stayed away from the parade fearing a mass shooting, but later ventured from her home.

Highland Park Police Chief Lou Jogmen said a police officer pulled over Robert E. Crimo III about five miles north of the shooting scene, several hours after police released the man's photo and an image of his silver Honda Fit, and warned the public that he was likely armed and dangerous. Authorities initially said he was 22, but an FBI bulletin and Crimo's social media said he was 21.

Police declined to immediately identify Crimo as a suspect but said identifying him as a person of interest, sharing his name and other information publicly was a serious step.

Lake County Major Crime Task Force spokesman Christopher Covelli said at a news conference "several of the deceased victims" died at the scene and one was taken to a hospital and died there. Police have not released details about the victims or wounded.

Lake County Coroner Jennifer Banek said the five people killed at the parade were adults, but didn't have information on the sixth victim who was taken to a hospital and died there. One of those killed was a Mexican national, Roberto Velasco, Mexico's director for North American affairs, said on Twitter Monday. He said two other Mexicans were wounded.

NorthShore University Health Center received 26 patients after the attack. All but one had gunshot wounds, said Dr. Brigham Temple, medical director of emergency preparedness. Their ages ranged from 8 to 85, and Temple estimated that four or five patients were children.

Temple said 19 of them were treated and discharged. Others were transferred to other hospitals, while two patients, in stable condition, remained at the Highland Park hospital.

"It is devastating that a celebration of America was ripped apart by our uniquely American plague," Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker said at a news conference.

"I'm furious because it does not have to be this way... while we celebrate the Fourth of July just once a year, mass shootings have become a weekly—yes, weekly—American tradition."

The shooter opened fire around 10:15 a.m., when the parade was about three-quarters through, authorities said.

Highland Park Police Commander Chris O'Neill, the incident commander on scene, said the gunman apparently used a "high-powered rifle" to fire from a spot atop a commercial building where he was "very difficult to see." He said the rifle was recovered at the scene. Police also found a ladder attached to the building.

"Very random, very intentional and a very sad day," Covelli said.

President Joe Biden on Monday said he and first lady Jill Biden were "shocked by the senseless gun violence that has yet again brought grief to an American community on this Independence Day."

Biden signed the widest-ranging gun violence bill passed by Congress in decades, a compromise that showed at once both progress on a long-intractable issue and the deep-seated partisan divide that persists.

Source: AP, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel
Graphic: Staff, Tribune News Service

As a word of an arrest spread, residents who had hunkered in homes began venturing outside, some walking toward where the shooting occurred. Several people stood and stared at the scene, with abandoned picnic blankets, hundreds of lawn chairs and backpacks still where they were when the shooting began.

Police believe there was only one shooter but warned that he should still be considered armed and dangerous. Several nearby cities canceled events including parades and fireworks, some of them noting that the Highland Park shooter was still at large. The Chicago White Sox also announced on Twitter that a planned postgame fireworks show is canceled due to the shooting.

More than 100 law enforcement officers were called to the parade scene or dispatched to find the suspected shooter.

More than a dozen police officers on Monday surrounded a home listed as an address for Crimo in Highland Park. Some officers held rifles as they fixed their eyes on the home. Police blockaded roads leading to the home in a tree-lined neighborhood near a golf course, allowing only select law enforcement cars through a tight outer perimeter.

Crimo, who goes by the name Bobby, was an aspiring rapper with the stage name Awake the Rapper, posting on social media dozens videos and songs, some ominous and violent.

In one animated video since taken down by YouTube, Crimo raps about armies "walking in darkness" as a drawing appears of a man pointing a rifle, a body on the ground and another figure with hands up in the distance. A later frame shows a close-up of a chest with blood pouring out and another of police cars arriving as the shooter holds his hands up.

In another video, in which Crimo appears in a classroom wearing a black bicycle helmet, he says he is "like a sleepwalker… I know what I have to do," then adds, "Everything has led up to this. Nothing can stop me, even myself."

Crimo's father, Bob, a longtime deli owner, ran unsuccessfully for mayor of Highland Park in 2019, calling himself "a person for the people."

Highland Park is a close-knit community of about 30,000 people located on the shores of Lake Michigan just north of Chicago, with mansions and sprawling lakeside estates that have long drawn the rich and sometimes famous, including NBA legend Michael Jordan, who lived in the city for years when he played for the Chicago Bulls. John Hughes filmed parts of several movies in the city, including "Ferris Bueller's Day Off," "Sixteen Candles" and "Weird Science."

Ominous signs of a joyous event suddenly turned to horror filled both sides of Central Avenue where the shooting occurred. Dozens of baby strollers—some bearing American flags, abandoned children's bikes and a helmet bedecked with images of Cinderella were left behind. Blankets, lawn chairs, coffees and water bottles were knocked over as people fled.

Gina Troiani and her son were lined up with his daycare class ready to walk onto the parade route when she heard a loud sound that she believed was fireworks—until she heard people yell about a shooter. In a video that Troiani shot on her phone, some of the kids are visibly startled at the loud noise, and they scramble to the side of the road as a siren wails nearby.

"We just start running in the opposite direction," she told The Associated Press.

Her 5-year-old son was riding his bike decorated with red and blue curled ribbons. He and other children in the group held small American flags. The city said on its website that the festivities were to include a children's bike and pet parade.

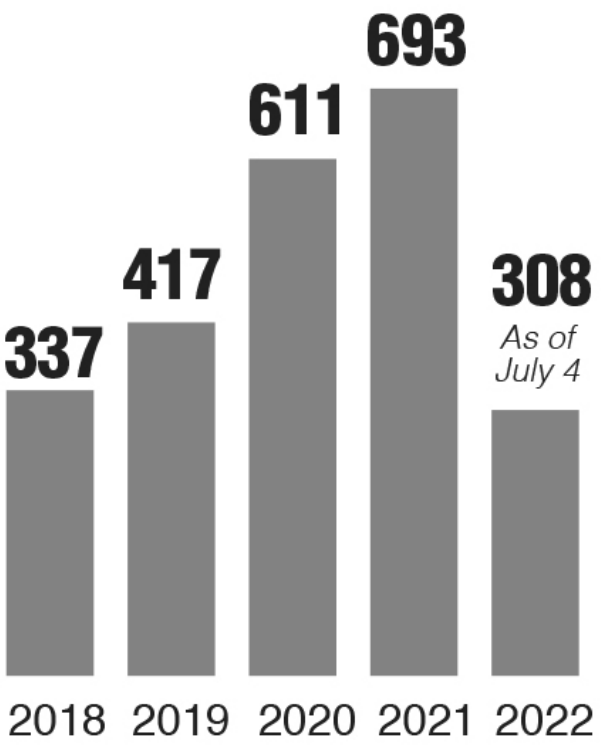
Troiani said she pushed her son's bike, running through the neighborhood to get back to their car.

"It was just sort of chaos," she said. "There were people that got separated from their families, looking for them. Others just dropped their wagons, grabbed their kids and started running."

Debbie Glickman, a Highland Park resident, said she was on a parade float with coworkers and the group was preparing to turn onto the main route when she saw people running from the area.

Mass shootings

Defined as four or more people killed or injured during incident in the U.S.



Source: gunviolencearchive.org
Graphic: Staff, TNS

Asia

Sydney floods burden 50K

AP

A man paddles on a stand-up paddle board through a flooded street at Windsor on the outskirts of Sydney, Australia, Tuesday, July 5, 2022.

RICHMOND, Australia (AP)—Hundreds of homes have been inundated in and around Australia's largest city in a flood emergency that was causing trouble for 50,000 people, officials said Tuesday.

Emergency response teams made 100 rescues overnight of people trapped in cars on flooded roads or in inundated homes in the Sydney area, State Emergency Service manager Ashley Sullivan said.

Days of torrential rain have caused dams to overflow and waterways to break their banks, bringing a fourth flood emergency in 16 months to parts of the city of 5 million people.

Evacuation orders and warnings to prepare to abandon homes were given to 50,000 people, up from 32,000 on Monday, New South Wales Premier Dominic Perrottet said.

"This event is far from over. Please don't be complacent, wherever you are. Please be careful when you're driving on our roads. There is still substantial risk for flash flooding across our state," Perrottet said.

The New South Wales state government declared a disaster across 23 local government areas overnight, activating federal government financial assistance for flood victims.

Emergency Services Minister Steph Cooke credited the skill and commitment of rescue crews for preventing any death or serious injury by the fourth day of the flooding emergency.

Parts of southern Sydney had been lashed by more than 20 centimeters (nearly 8 inches) of rain in 24 hours, more than 17% of the city's annual average, Bureau of Meteorology meteorologist Jonathan How said.

Severe weather warnings of heavy rain remained in place across Sydney's eastern suburbs on Tuesday. The warnings also extended north of Sydney along the coast and into the Hunter Valley.

The worst flooding was along the Hawkesbury-Nepean river system along Sydney's northern and western fringes.

"The good news is that by tomorrow afternoon, it is looking to be mostly dry but, of course, we are reminding people that these floodwaters will remain very high well after the rain has stopped," How said.

NASA satellite heads to the moon

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—A satellite the size of a microwave oven successfully broke free from its orbit around Earth on Monday and is headed toward the moon, the latest step in NASA's plan to land astronauts on the lunar surface again.

It's been an unusual journey already for the Capstone satellite. It was launched six days ago from New Zealand's Mahia Peninsula by the company Rocket Lab in one of their small Electron rockets. It will take another four months for the satellite to reach the moon, as it cruises along using minimal energy.

Rocket Lab founder Peter Beck told The Associated Press it was hard to put his excitement into words.

"It's probably going to take a while to sink in. It's been a project that has taken us two, two-and-a-half years and is just incredibly, incredibly difficult to execute," he said. "So to see it all come together tonight and see that spacecraft on its way to the moon, it's just absolutely epic."

Beck said the relatively low cost of the mission—NASA put it at $32.7 million—marked the beginning of a new era for space exploration.

"For some tens of millions of dollars, there is now a rocket and a spacecraft that can take you to the moon, to asteroids, to Venus, to Mars," Beck said. "It's an insane capability that's never existed before."

If the rest of the mission is successful, the Capstone satellite will send back vital information for months as the first to take a new orbit around the moon called a near-rectilinear halo orbit: a stretched-out egg shape with one end of the orbit passing close to the moon and the other far from it.

Eventually, NASA plans to put a space station called Gateway into the orbital path, from which astronauts can descend to the moon's surface as part of its Artemis program.

Beck said the advantage of the new orbit is that it minimizes fuel use and allows the satellite—or a space station—to stay in constant contact with Earth.

The Electron rocket that launched June 28 from New Zealand was carrying a second spacecraft called Photon, which separated after nine minutes. The satellite was carried for six days in Photon, with the spacecraft's engines firing periodically to raise its orbit farther and farther from Earth.

World

Putin declares victory in eastern Ukraine's region

POKROVSK, Ukraine (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin on Monday declared victory in the eastern Ukrainian region of Luhansk, one day after Ukrainian forces withdrew from their last remaining bulwark of resistance in the province.

Russia's Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu reported to Putin in a televised meeting Monday that Russian forces had taken control of Luhansk, which together with the neighboring Donetsk province makes up Ukraine's industrial heartland of Donbas.

Shoigu told Putin that "the operation" was completed on Sunday after Russian troops overran the city of Lysychansk, the last stronghold of Ukrainian forces in Luhansk.

Putin, in turn, said that the military units "that took part in active hostilities and achieved success, victory" in Luhansk, "should rest, increase their combat capabilities."

Putin's declaration came as Russian forces tried to press their offensive deeper into eastern Ukraine after the Ukrainian military confirmed that its forces had withdrawn from Lysychansk on Sunday. Luhansk governor Serhii Haidai said on Monday that Ukrainian forces had retreated from the city to avoid being surrounded.

"There was a risk of Lysychansk encirclement," Haidai told the Associated Press, adding that Ukrainian troops could have held on for a few more weeks but would have potentially paid too high a price.

"We managed to do centralized withdrawal and evacuate all injured," Haidai said. "We took back all the equipment, so from this point withdrawal was organized well."

The Ukrainian General Staff said Russian forces were now focusing their efforts on pushing toward the line of Siversk, Fedorivka and Bakhmut in the Donetsk region, about half of which is controlled by Russia. The Russian army has also intensified its shelling of the key Ukrainian strongholds of Sloviansk and Kramatorsk, deeper in Donetsk.

On Sunday, six people, including a 9-year-old girl, were killed in the Russian shelling of Sloviansk and another 19 people were wounded, according to local authorities. Kramatorsk also came under fire on Sunday.

Jihadi attacks kill 22 people in Burkina Faso

OUAGADOUGOU, Burkina Faso (AP)—Attacks by jihadis killed at least 22 people in northwestern Burkina Faso and also injured others, the government said Monday.

The "cowardly and barbaric" attack occurred late Sunday in the commune of Bourasso in Kossi province, Babo Pierre Pierre Bassinga, governor of Boucle du Mouhoun region, said in a statement.

The West African nation has been overrun by jihadi violence linked to al-Qaida and the Islamist State group in recent years. Violence has killed thousands and displaced nearly 2 million people from their homes.

Mutinous soldiers ousted Burkina Faso's democratically elected president in January promising to secure the country, but since then violence has increased and spread.

More than 530 violent incidents occurred between February and May, which was more than double the level during the same period of 2021, according to the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project.

At least 135 people were killed in 12 jihadi attacks during the first two weeks of June, according to an internal security report for aid workers seen by The Associated Press.

In an attempt to stem the violence, last month the junta announced the creation of two military zones in the hard-hit East and Sahel regions, forcing civilians to leave their homes within two weeks and prompting concerns it would worsen the crisis of displaced people.

Alpine avalanche leaves 7 dead, 13 missing in Italy

CANAZEI, Italy (AP)—Thunderstorms hampered Monday the search for more than a dozen hikers who remained unaccounted for a day after a huge chunk of an Alpine glacier in Italy broke off, sending an avalanche of ice, snow and rocks down the slope. Officials put the known death toll at seven.

"I hope the numbers stop here," said Veneto Gov. Luca Zaia, whose region in northeast Italy borders the Dolomite mountain range including the Marmolada glacier. He spoke in the resort town of Canazei, where a morgue was set up in the ice rink.

Another regional leader, Maurizio Fugatti, said 14 people remained unaccounted for by Monday afternoon: 10 Italians, three from Czechia and one from Austria. Local officials later said that Austrian consular officials had made contact with the Austrian.

"We were contacted by families because these people didn't return home,"' said Fugatti of the Trentino-Alto Adige Alpine region.

In the mountain's parking lot, four cars remained whose occupants hadn't been traced—two cars had license plates from Czechia; one vehicle was from Germany and the fourth was from Hungary.

At least three of the dead were Italians, authorities said. Italian news reports said one of the deceased was from Czechia, which is more widely known in English as the Czech Republic.

One of the Italians was Filippo Bari, 28, who snapped a selfie with the Marmolada glacier in the background only minutes before the avalanche, his brother, Andrea, told state TV in Canazei where he came to identify the body.

Although an expert mountain hiker, his brother said his family always told him to be careful in the mountains, "above all in these temperatures." He said the selfie was sent only 20 minutes before the avalanche and that his brother, who had a partner and a 4-year-old son, was smiling. "He passed away doing what he loved."

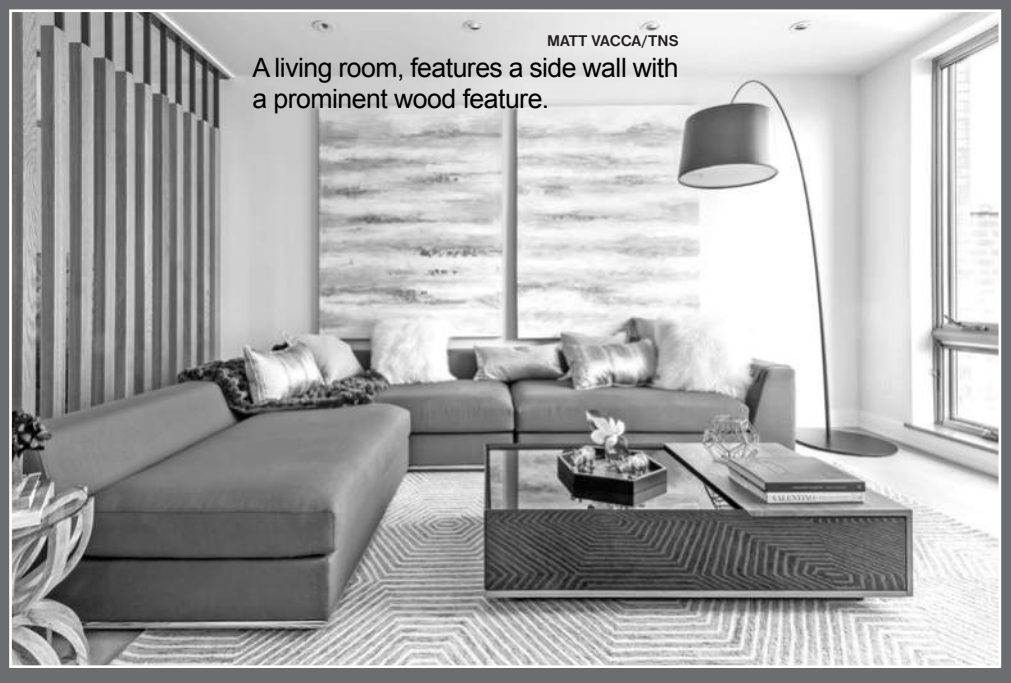
On Sunday, officials said nine people were injured, but on Monday told reporters in Canazei that eight were injured, including two in grave condition.

Good Housekeeping

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS
A wood framed wall, painted in black, creates a arm and inviting vibe.

How to incorporate inviting architectural wood features into your space

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS
A painted wood railing creates a sense of contrast and interest.



MATT VACCA/TNS
A living room, features a side wall with a prominent wood feature.

SCOTT GABRIEL MORRIS/TNS
Wall to wall millwork creates a built in bar in a family room space.

By CATHY HOBBS
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Wood can be inviting and cozy, as well as the perfect way to warm up nearly any space. Mix in other materials from glass to steel and you may have the perfect recipe for a space is that is both inviting and architecturally interesting. What are some ways to incorporate wood into your home? Here are some top tips.

DO'S

- Do look for wood species that blend into the overall aesthetic of your home.
- Do allow natural grains to show through, as opposed to
- covering or concealing their natural beauty.
- Do consider using wood as a way to make a feature wall or architectural element.
- Do consider painting wood to bring in color into a space.
- Do look for materials to pair with wood such as glass or steel.

DON'TS

- Don't mix too many different wood species in the same space.
- Don't alter or cover fine grains of wood.
- Don't overlook using highlighting wood in small ways such as baseboards, casings or trims.
- Don't ignore the opportunity to highlight wood through the use of elements such as hardware.
- Don't overlook the opportunity to make custom wood pieces or elements through the help of a millworker or carpenter.

Life & Style

Joey Chestnut is chomp champ again in July 4 hot dog contest

NEW YORK (AP)—Frankfurter-munching phenom Joey "Jaws" Chestnut put a protester in a chokehold while gobbling his way to a 15th win Monday at the Nathan's Famous Fourth of July hot dog eating contest, powering down 63 hot dogs and buns at the annual exhibition of excess.

In a decisive chowdown comeback, women's record-holder Miki Sudo downed 40 wieners and buns to win the women's title after skipping last year's frank fest because she was pregnant.

A spectator wearing a Darth Vader mask rushed the stage, momentarily disrupting the competition. Chestnut put the protester in a brief chokehold before contest officials hurried over and escorted the intruder away.

Another protester in a white stormtrooper mask had also snuck behind the competitors and hoisted a sign saying, "Expose Smithfield's Deathstar." Smithfield manufactures Nathan's famous hotdogs.

After the altercation, Chestnut went back to the task at hand: Devouring more hot dogs.

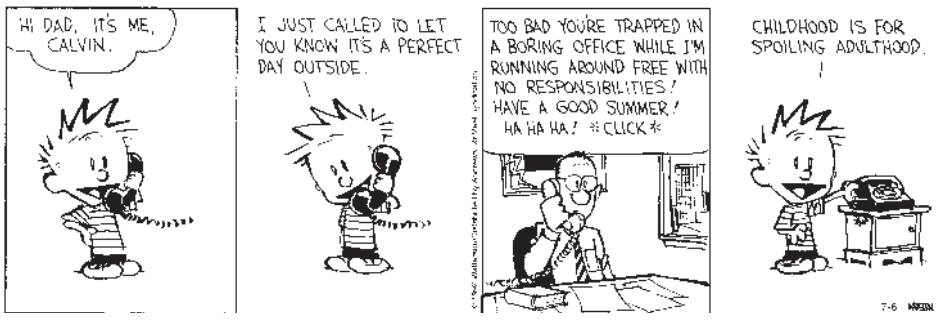
Monday marked the contest's return to its traditional location outside Nathan's flagship shop in Brooklyn's Coney Island neighborhood. The event was relocated in 2020 and last year because of the coronavirus pandemic.

Nathan's
Nathan's
Nathan's

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

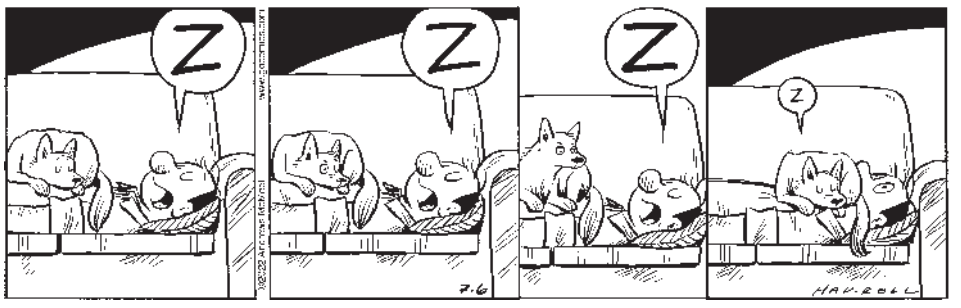

HI DAD, IT'S ME, CALVIN.
I JUST CALLED TO LET YOU KNOW IT'S A PERFECT DAY OUTSIDE.
TOO BAD YOU'RE TRAPPED IN A BORING OFFICE WHILE I'M RUNNING AROUND FREE WITH NO RESPONSIBILITIES! HAVE A GOOD SUMMER! HA HA HA! *CLICK*
CHILDHOOD IS FOR SPOILING ADULTHOOD.
7-6

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

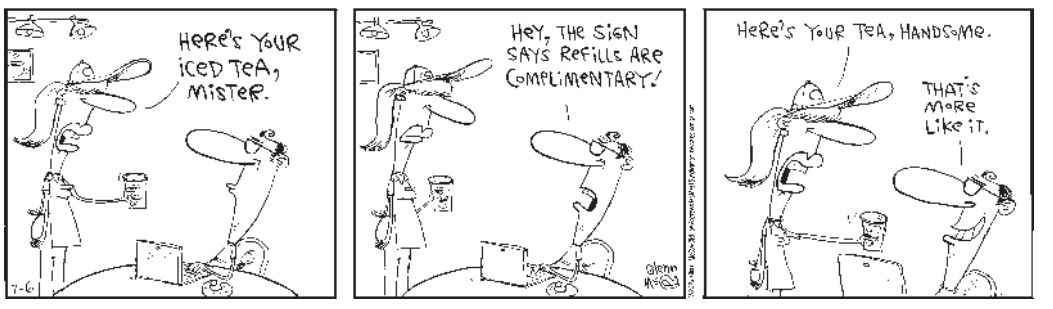
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

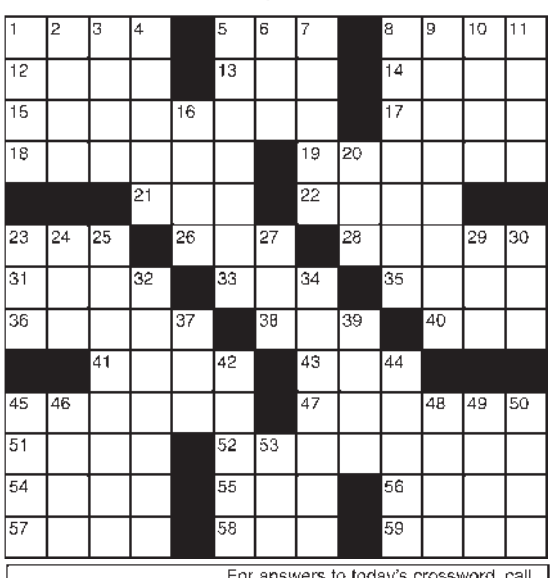
ACROSS
1 Mortgage again, for short
5 Carried out
8 Classic Fords
12 Golf bag item
13 King, in Cannes
14 Black-and-white cookie
15 Candidate
17 Texas city
18 Fall flowers
19 Activate
21 Wee bit
22 Elevator name
23 Enjoy the Alps
26 "Family Guy" daughter
28 "Have —!"
31 Teller's partner
33 '60s war zone
35 Canyon sound
36 Loses color
38 eBay offer
40 Badge metal
41 Computer debut of 1998
43 Wrong (Pref.)
45 Tranquil
47 Circular window
51 War god
52 Cancel a choice
54 Pudding variety
55 Greek H
56 Hardy cabbage
57 Deeds
58 Radiator sound
59 Lovers' quarrel

DOWN
1 Morning co-host Kelly
2 Messes up
3 Yard fraction
4 Map within a map
5 City on the Elbe
6 Winter Games org.
7 "Same here"
8 Like some jeans
9 Cut across
10 1920s art style
11 Anon
16 Baby carriage
20 Actress Hagen
23 Suntan lotion letters
24 Mauna —
25 Roundabout
27 Prattle
29 Sushi fish
30 Great weight
32 Arch-rivals
34 Brunch cocktails
37 — Diego
39 "Monopoly" cubes
42 Surrenders
44 Mopes
45 Poet Teasdale
46 Idle of Monty Python
48 Bound
49 Golden State sch.
50 Editor's "keep it"
53 UFO crew

Solution time: 23 mins.

E	A	R	L	■	P	H	O	■	H	T	T	P
C	L	O	T	■	I	O	N	■	O	R	E	L
H	O	T	D	A	T	E	S	■	A	R	A	
O	■	C	■	S	A	S	■	A	D	M	I	N
■	■	■	H	I	S	■	C	H	O	■	■	■
P	E	R	C	N	■	W	E	I	G	H	T	S
I	G	O	T	■	P	A	■	■	B	C	O	T
C	O	B	W	E	B	S	■	P	U	P	P	Y
■	■	■	H	A	S	■	B	A	N	■	■	■
P	U	G	E	T	■	■	E	D	■	T	I	A
A	L	O	E	■	H	O	T	S	■	J	F	F
C	A	R	L	■	E	M	T	■	S	T	A	R
O	N	F	S	■	I	A	Y	■	A	J	T	O

Yesterday's answer 7-6



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kevin Hart, 43; Tia Mowry, 44; Tamera Mowry, 44; Sylvester Stallone, 76.

Happy Birthday: Take your time, think matters through and keep things in perspective. The decisions you make will impact your life as well as other people. Show compassion, and put thought and energy behind your promises. Precision, attention to detail and quality will determine your success. Have a solid plan in place before you share your intentions. Your numbers are 2, 14, 22, 25, 34, 37, 40.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You'll find it difficult to say no to a persuasive talker or someone who's trying to sell you something. When temptation sets in, rethink your steps and set your sights on an educational or constructive path. Personal improvement will pay off and encourage rewarding friendships. ✪✪✪

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You'll be quick to make decisions. Put a hold on voicing your opinion or making promises you haven't thought through. Don't limit your possibilities by tying up your time and energy on something that will not satisfy your soul. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Seize the moment, do something you find inviting and immerse yourself in mastering what you set out to achieve. Don't wait for someone to take charge; set expectations and achieve your goal. Self-improvement and romance are encouraged. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Exhaust all your options before making a move. Getting along with others will be mandatory if you want to get things done on time. Stick to what's feasible, and avoid overreacting and overspending. Moderation and discipline are encouraged. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Pay attention to presenting yourself properly. Your image will make a difference when networking. A chance to impress someone you feel drawn to will give you the edge you need to outshine anyone who wants to compete with you. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Keep your emotions in check. Refuse to let someone upset you or back you into a corner. Look for ways to improve what you can offer, and move forward quickly. Put pressure on anyone who tries to hold you back. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Keep your thoughts to yourself. Focus on self-improvement instead of trying to change someone. Look for a chance to nurture and improve your relationships. Doing so will encourage others to go out of their way to help and support your efforts. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't shun your responsibilities. Take care of duties before moving on to more enjoyable or creative tasks. Having a clear mind will make it easier for you to develop an original plan that will help you expand your interests. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Put your strengths to the test, and don't stop until you reach your goal. Self-improvements will fetch compliments and encourage talks about intentions and plans with someone you love. Make physical changes at home that add to your comfort. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Keep everything in perspective. Too much of anything will leave you in a quandary. Concentrate on positive changes at home, and nurture relationships you have neglected. Reaching out to the people you care about will bring you closer. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Put everything you've got into making your environment better. Spend time at home going over pending matters and cleaning up unfinished business. What you accomplish will buy you the freedom to follow your heart without feeling guilty. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20):* You can think big, but when it comes to putting your plans in motion, do so from a minimalist point of view. Use only what's necessary to reach your target. Waste not, and you'll have no regrets. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are sensitive, big-hearted and changeable. You are entrepreneurial and presumptuous.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13				14			
15				16				■	17			
18						■	19	20				
■	■	■	21			■	22				■	■
23	24	25	■	26		27	■	28			29	30
31			32	■	33		34	■	35			
36				37	■	38		39	■	40		
■	■	41			42	■	43		44	■	■	■
45	46					■	47			48	49	50
51				■	52	53						
54					55				56			
57				■	58			■	59			

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

					1	6	3	5
	4	7		6			8	
	6		2			7		
		4			7			
1	2		9	3	6	2		
4		5			2		1	6
8	7					4	9	
6						5		

Difficulty Level ★★★ 7/06

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Tuesday's Answer

9	8	5	4	3	6	2	7	1
3	2	1	9	7	5	4	6	8
7	4	6	1	8	2	3	9	5
5	3	2	6	9	7	1	8	4
8	6	4	2	1	3	7	5	9
1	7	9	5	4	8	6	3	2
2	1	7	3	5	9	8	4	6
6	5	8	7	2	4	9	1	3
4	9	3	8	6	1	5	2	7

Difficulty Level ★★

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

SAFFRON **Solution: 8 letters**

C	P	F	C	B	M	F	L	O	R	A	L	I	R	T
S	R	E	A	O	R	C	U	S	T	A	R	D	E	H
U	B	I	E	L	R	E	Ⓚ	S	C	A	S	E	C	C
R	E	R	M	T	I	N	Ⓐ	E	N	P	W	I	I	N
T	E	T	E	S	S	P	Ⓞ	D	I	S	I	R	P	I
I	V	S	S	H	O	D	Ⓢ	C	T	A	L	D	E	P
C	I	S	A	A	T	N	E	E	S	U	D	S	A	O
O	S	P	L	V	T	D	C	H	I	C	K	E	N	T
O	N	U	T	E	O	N	T	E	D	E	L	L	E	A
K	E	O	A	O	A	R	S	I	M	L	C	P	C	T
I	P	S	F	R	E	U	Y	I	A	U	N	P	I	O
E	X	A	G	S	C	T	N	A	L	P	F	A	R	M
S	E	A	S	O	N	I	N	G	D	A	E	R	H	T
S	R	E	R	E	T	A	W	E	P	O	W	D	E	R
F	D	C	R	E	A	M	M	O	R	O	C	C	O	P

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Apples, Bread, Chicken, Citrus, Cookies, Corn, Cream, Crimson, Crocus, Custard, Dessert, Distinct, Dried, Expensive, Farm, Floral, Fragrance, Herbs, Iran, Morocco, Paella, Pasta, Perfume, Pilaf, Pinch, Plant, Potato, Powder, Recipe, Rice, Risotto, Salt, Sauce, Savory, Seafood, Seasoning, Soak, Soups, Spice, Steep, Sweet, Taste, Teas, Thread, Water, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Budgets

Treasuries 27, 29, 31 and 33 through 48 can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com.

Red Sox win 8th straight on Fourth of July, beat Rays, 4-0

BOSTON (AP) — Trevor Story hit a solo homer, Kutter Crawford pitched 5 1/3 innings of two-hit relief and the Boston Red Sox won their eighth straight Fourth of July game, beating the Tampa Bay Rays 4-0 on Monday.

Franchy Cordero added an RBI single for the Red Sox, who won their second straight game and improved to just 9-16 against AL East rivals.

"Kutter gave us a lot, helped us out a lot in the pen there," Story said. "He looked great."

With a handful of its players wearing long sleeves with stars and stripes on a warm, sunny day, Boston matched its franchise record for consecutive July 4 wins, accomplished from 1901-04 and 1936-39, when teams played doubleheaders.

Tampa Bay had its three-game winning streak halted and lost a road series opener for the eighth straight time. The Rays had just two hits, both singles.

"Kutter Crawford, we've seen him twice now and he's pitched really well against us," Rays manager Kevin Cash said. "Big fastball, threw the breaking ball and had the cutter as well. We just couldn't get anything going. Just never felt like we had a rhythm at the plate at all."

Story put the Red Sox ahead in the fourth, driving a changeup from Josh Fleming (2-4) into the back of Boston's bullpen for his 13th homer.

Boston went with a bullpen game because scheduled starter Michael Wacha was scratched Sunday with what manager Alex Cora called a dead arm. The Red Sox started Austin Davis for two hitless innings before using two more relievers.

Crawford (2-2) struck out eight and walked one and John Schreiber got five outs for his third save.

"I had pretty good command of all five of my pitches," Crawford said. "I was just going right at guys. When I fell behind on the count, I got right back into it with the cutter or curveball. ... The last couple of outings I figured something out that's helped me mechanically."

Braves 6, Cardinals 3

In Atlanta, Dansby Swanson hit a three-run double in a five-run second inning and Atlanta held off St. Louis in a game delayed more than 2 1/2 hours by rain.

The Cardinals loaded the bases for a couple of big hitters in the ninth, but Will Smith struck out Nolan Arenado and retired Albert Pujols on a grounder back to the mound for his fifth save.

Matt Olson had two RBI singles for the Braves, driving in Swanson both times.

Swanson's bases-loaded double was the big hit against Dakota Hudson (6-5) in the second. Swanson also doubled and scored in the first.

The Braves remained 3 1/2 games behind the first-place New York Mets in the NL East. The Cardinals fell three games behind NL Central-leading Milwaukee.

Atlanta reliever Jesse Chavez (2-1) gave up homers to rookies Juan Yepez and Conner Capel in the sixth. Capel's homer was the first of his career.

Tigers 4, Guardians 1, 1st game
Tigers 5, Guardians 3, 2nd game

In Detroit, Jonathan Schoop singled twice to cap a six-hit day, Eric Haase homered and Tyler Alexander pitched 3 1/3 innings of scoreless relief as Detroit completed a sweep of Cleveland in a day-night doubleheader.

Schoop, who entered the day hitting .191, had four singles in four at-bats and scored two runs to help the Tigers win the opener.

In the nightcap, Detroit starter Alex Faedo was pulled with right hip soreness in the fourth before Alexander (2-3) took over.

Joe Jimenez retired the side in the ninth for his first save of the season.

Trevor Stephan (3-3) took the loss.

In the opener, Garrett Hill won his major league debut by pitching six impressive innings and Miguel Cabrera delivered a key two-run single.

Hill (1-0) allowed just two hits, including a home run by Josh Naylor. He struck out three and walked one. Andrew Chafin, Michael Fulmer and Gregory Soto combined for three hitless innings of relief.

The two hits matched the fewest for Guardians batters this season (June 18 at the Dodgers) and fewest allowed by Detroit pitchers (June 1 against Minnesota).

Orioles 7, Rangers 6

In Baltimore, Jorge Mateo limped to first base when Matt Moore (3-1) hit him near the left knee with the bases loaded in the 10th.

Rookie Adley Rutschman tied the score against Joe Barlow with a two-out RBI double in the ninth that hit off the right-field wall.

Baltimore got its sixth walkoff win and reached the season's midpoint at 37-44, a vast improvement from 27-54 at the halfway point last year. Bryan Baker (3-3) struck out two in a hitless 10th.

AP

Boston Red Sox's Trevor Story hits a solo homer during the fourth inning of a baseball game against the Tampa Bay Rays at Fenway Park, Monday, July 4, 2022, in Boston.

Marlins 3, Nationals 2

In Washington, Bryan De La Cruz hit a two-run homer off the foul pole in the 10th, a drive off Tanner Rainey (1-3).

Miami beat the Nationals for the 12th time in 13 games this year, including seven in a row. They extended their winning streak to five.

Jimmy Yacabonis (1-1) got the win after pitching a scoreless ninth, and Dylan Floro got his second save in as many days — his first two this season.

Astros 7, Royals 6

In Houston, Yordan Álvarez his 24th homer, a tiebreaking, two-out drive off Scott Barlow (2-2) in the ninth as Houston

overcame a 5-0 fourth-inning deficit and won its seventh straight.

Kyle Tucker sparked a three-run eighth with a two-run single, and Houston won for the 15th time in 18 games.

Ryne Stanek (1-0) pitched a scoreless ninth.

Brewers 5, Cubs 2

In Milwaukee, Victor Caratini hit a three-run homer off Scott Effross (1-4) with two outs in the 10th after striking out in his four previous at-bats.

Brad Boxberger (3-1) struck out out Willson Contreras and Ian Happ. to escape a bases-loaded jam in the 10th.

Seiya Suzuki, playing for the first time since May 26 after recovering from a sprained left ring finger, hit a go-ahead, inside-the-park homer in the ninth. The drive against Josh Hader ricocheted off an angled portion of the wall, bounced past center fielder Jonathan Davis and rolled along the warning track back toward right.

David Robertson forced in the tying run with a four-pitch, bases-loaded walk to Christian Yelich in the bottom half.

Mariners 8, Padres 2

In San Diego, prized rookie Julio Rodriguez hit a monster two-run homer, Cal Raleigh drove in four runs and Chris Flexen pitched Seattle past San Diego.

The Mariners won their third straight and sixth in seven games. The Padres lost for the eighth time in 11 games.

Flexen (5-8) permitted four hits in 6 2/3 innings before three relievers finished off the slumping Padres. Trent Grisham hit a two-run homer in the ninth.

Rodriguez connected off Sean Manaea (3-4) in the fourth to make it 4-0. It was his 15th homer this season and 12th in his last 40 games. He became the first player in big league history with 15 home runs and 20 stolen bases in his first 81 games.

Mets 7, Reds 4

In Cincinnati, Brandon Nimmo and Francisco Lindor homered to lead New York over Cincinnati.

Taijuan Walker (7-2) struck out nine in six innings as the Mets won their second straight after losing four of five. The NL East leaders improved to 50-30, and ace right-hander Max Scherzer returns Tuesday night after being sidelined since May 18 by a strained left oblique muscle.

Nick Senzel and Brandon Drury homered for last-place Cincinnati, which lost for the fifth time in six games. Reds rookie Hunter Greene (3-10) was tagged for six runs in 5 1/3 innings.

Walker allowed three runs and four hits. Seth Lugo pitched the ninth for his third save.

Diamondbacks 8, Giants 3

In Phoenix, Madison Bumgarner beat his former team and Arizona sent San Francisco to its fifth straight loss.

Last season, the Giants went 17-2 against Arizona in winning the NL West title. But in the first of their 19 meetings this year, Bumgarner (4-8) and the Diamondbacks prevailed.

Bumgarner, now in his third season with Arizona after helping the Giants win three World Series championships, allowed three runs in five innings.

Carlos Rodón (7-5) gave up four runs in five innings, striking out seven.

Twins 6, White Sox 3, 10 innings

In Chicago, Luis Arraez had three hits, including a tiebreaking single in Minnesota's four-run 10th inning against Chicago.

Arraez's leadoff grounder against Joe Kelly (0-2) drove in pinch-runner Gilberto Celestino. Jorge Polanco added a sacrifice fly, and Alex Kirilloff made it 6-2 with a two-run single.

Kelly hurt himself with consecutive walks. Chicago manager Tony La Russa was ejected by plate umpire David Rackley as the 10th inning fell apart for the White Sox.

Chicago also ran itself into a triple play with an embarrassing baserunning display in the seventh.

The AL Central contenders faced off hours after a gunman opened fire on an Independence Day parade in suburban Chicago, killing at least six people. The White Sox talked to Major League Baseball about postponing the game, but it went on as scheduled.

The postgame fireworks show was canceled, and a moment of silence was observed before the first pitch.

Emilio Pagán (3-3) got three outs for the win. Jhoan Duran allowed AJ Pollock's RBI single in the 10th before closing it out.

Arraez hiked his major league-leading batting average to .348. Byron Buxton hit a two-run homer for the first-place Twins.

José Abreu homered for the White Sox.

Athletics 5, Blue Jays 1

In Oakland, Calif., Stephen Vogt hit a home run and a sacrifice fly, treating his family to a big performance after they just arrived for the summer, and Oakland defeated Toronto.

Ramón Laureano also went deep and Elvis Andrus had an early two-run double to back Cole Irvin's gem for the A's, who drew a season-high 24,403 fans on a Fourth of July fireworks night.

Irvin (3-6) retired his first 11 batters and didn't issue a walk over a season-best eight innings to earn his first win in nine starts since returning from the injured list May 22. He had been 0-5 during that stretch, with four straight losses.

Alek Manoah (9-3) was tagged for five runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings.

Dodgers 5, Rockies 3

In Los Angeles, Trayce Thompson hit a go-ahead, three-run homer in the fifth inning, when the Dodgers finally broke though against Kyle Freeland, and Los Angeles beat Colorado.

Julio Urías (7-6) won his fourth consecutive start, allowing one run in six innings. The left-hander struck out seven and walked one to beat the Rockies at Dodger Stadium for the first time.

The Rockies scored twice in the ninth and had runners at the corners before falling short.

Reyes Moronta gave up a leadoff homer to C.J. Cron. Two outs later, pinch-hitter Charlie Blackmon delivered an RBI single before Yency Almonte struck out Connor Joe for his second career save. The other one came in 2020 with Colorado.

Los Angeles closer Craig Kimbrel is still sore after taking a line drive off his back. He'll get the next couple of days off.

Mookie Betts added an RBI single in the fifth and Trea Turner had an RBI double in the seventh as the Dodgers earned their eighth straight victory on the Fourth of July. Justin Turner finished with three hits.

Freeland (4-6) kept the Dodgers off the bases until the fifth. He gave up four runs and six hits in 5 2/3 innings.

A win on the 4th: USA Basketball pulls away, tops Cuba

HAVANA (AP)— There were some cheers for "The Star-Spangled Banner" before USA Basketball's game in Cuba on Independence Day.

And then the Americans celebrated the holiday with a big win.

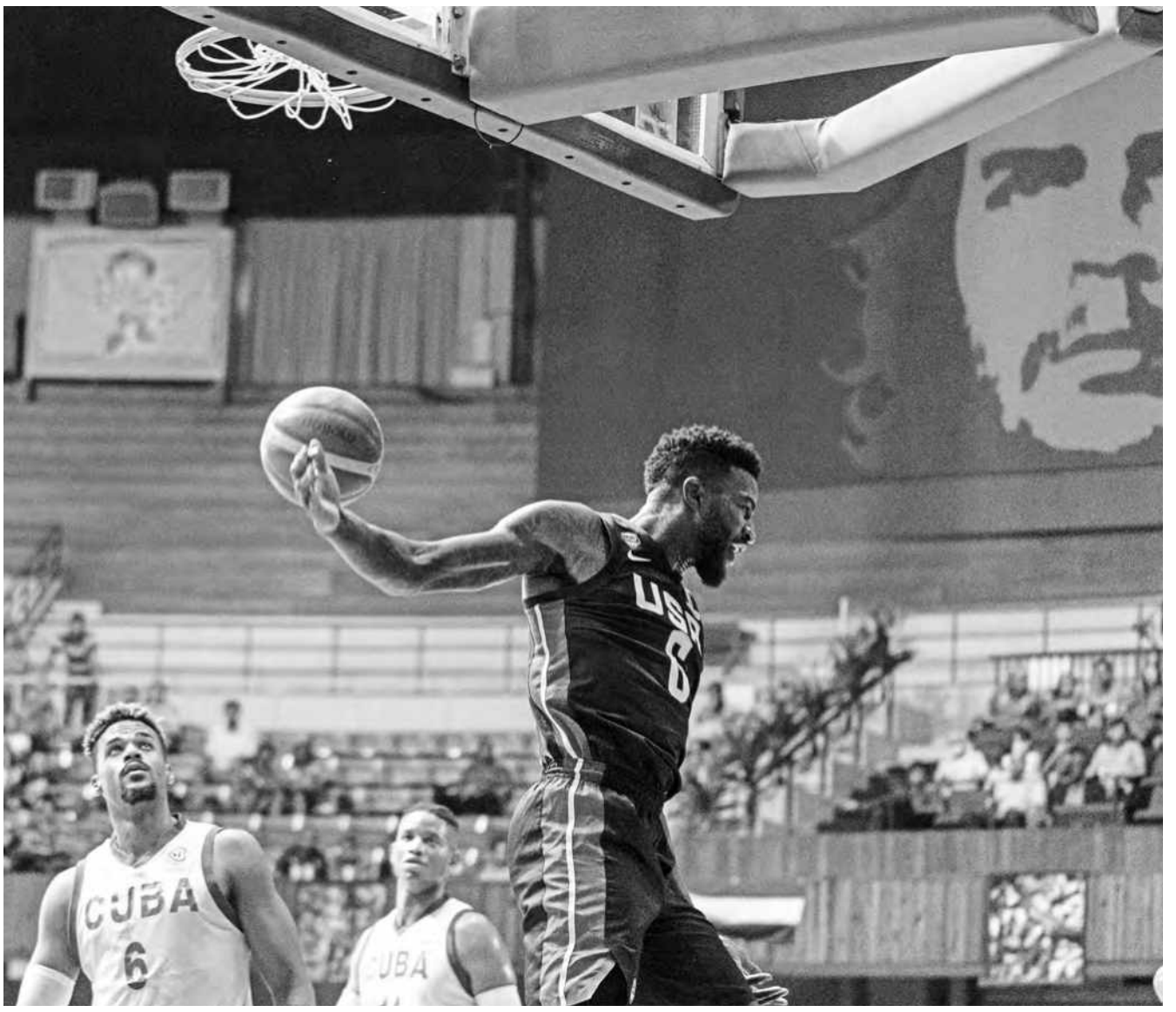
Xavier Munford scored 24 points and the U.S. defeated Cuba 87-64 on Monday night to close the first round of qualifying for next year's Basketball World Cup — improving to 31-1 all-time against the island nation.

"It's emotional to play on the Fourth of July," said Jim Boylen, who coached the U.S. in all three of the two-game windows in the opening qualifying round. "It's emotional to be here with this group of guys, with USA across our chests. It's a big day. Our country is 246 years old today and we're just thankful for this moment together."

Munford was 10 for 12 from the floor for the Americans, who got 13 points from Justin Jackson, 12 from John Jenkins — all from 3-point range — and 10 apiece from Will Davis and Langston Galloway.

"It's July 4th. No better feeling than to get a win tonight," Munford said.

Jordan Bell finished with eight rebounds and six assists for the Americans, whose spot in the second round of qualifying was previously secured. They'll take a 5-1 record into the second round, well on their way to clinching a spot in the World Cup and moving a big step closer toward getting USA Basketball qualified for the 2024 Paris Olympics.



AP

Jordan Bell of the U.S. reacts after dunking the ball against Cuba during the FIBA Americas qualifiers for the 2023 Basketball World Cup, In Havana, Cuba, Monday, July 4, 2022.

Yoel Cubilla led Cuba (0-6) with 15 points.

The Americans will start the second round of World Cup qualifying on Aug. 25, with the expectation that the first matchup will be against Uruguay in Las Vegas. The U.S. will also play on Aug. 29, probably on the road and likely against Colombia, though FIBA has yet to confirm that as the matchup.

The two road wins on this trip — the Americans beat Puerto Rico on Friday — puts the U.S. in a prime position to qualify for the World Cup. The roster was primarily composed of G League players, as is always the case for the Americans in World Cup qualifying, and Boylen said this group came together quickly.

"We came together 11 days ago and our team was focused, our guys were great, we worked on the basics, we got better every day and I thought we played the right way," Boylen said. "The ball moved, we grew together, and we cared for each other."

The U.S. will be grouped with Brazil, Uruguay, Mexico, Puerto Rico and Colombia in the second round. Also grouped from the Americas region will be Venezuela, Argentina, Panama, Canada, the Dominican Republic and the Bahamas.

Both of those groups will send three teams to the World Cup; the best fourth-place team from either of those groups will also go, with the Americas region sending seven teams to the tournament that will be played in the summer of 2023 in the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia.

Cuba led 16-14 after the first quarter Monday night. That is, until the Americans scored 14 points in the first 2:19 of the second quarter.

"We lost the first quarter, but I thought the second quarter, we responded," Boylen said.

A 3-pointer by Jackson opened the second quarter, put the U.S. ahead for good, and the Americans were off and running. The lead was 49-32 early in the third — ending what was a 35-16 run by the U.S. — and the Americans remained ahead the rest of the way.

"The Cuba team was great," Munford said. "They came out with a great effort. They made us work for it. They had strong guys. We played well tonight. We executed, took care of the ball, ran our offense and played USA style of basketball."

Source: Celtics get Pacers' Brogdon, bolster backcourt

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Brad Stevens thought the Boston Celtics needed another playmaker and more depth to win their first NBA title since 2007-08.

He may have found both with one big move Friday.

Boston's president of basketball operations acquired combo guard Malcolm Brogdon from the Indiana Pacers for five players, all backup forwards, and a 2023 first-round pick, a person familiar with the deal told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because the deal cannot officially be announced until next week.

Stevens, who grew up in Indianapolis and coached Butler not far from the Pacers home court, accomplished two key goals by getting Brogdon.

"I think the way that teams work together and operate together are fragile," Stevens said after the Celtics lost to Golden State in the NBA Finals in six games. "And I think your identity as a team, when you find one that's successful — which we did this year on the defensive end of the floor and when we were at our best sharing the ball offensively — those things are fragile. So just to add (players) doesn't mean that you're not taking something away from the group."

AP

Indiana Pacers' Malcolm Brogdon (7) goes up for a shot as Houston Rockets' Garrison Mathews defends during the first half of an NBA basketball game on March 18, 2022, in Houston.

Brogdon appears to be a perfect fit in a backcourt that already features NBA Defensive Player of the Year Marcus Smart, Jaylen Brown and Derrick White, who played a key role in Boston's postseason run.

And now they've added a leader who averaged 19.1 points, 5.9 assists and 5.1 rebounds last season.

Brogdon's biggest problem has been staying healthy. Injuries limited him to just 36 games in 2021-22 and the 29-year-old hasn't played more than 56 games since he joining Indiana in 2019.

Stevens didn't give up any of his key pieces, either. The Pacers get veteran Daniel Theis, Aaron Nesmith and Nic Stauskas — former first-round picks — Juwan Morgan and Malik Fitts. In addition to ading Theis' physical presence, the Pacers also now have $31 million in salary cap room and will have three first-round picks next summer if the Cleveland Cavaliers make the playoffs.

The deal came as no surprise in Indiana.

After acquiring Brogdon in a trade with Milwaukee, the Pacers thought he could be a franchise building block only to have those injuries creep in. Instead, his fate was essentially sealed when Indiana acquired point guard Tyrese Haliburton from Sacramento at the midseason trade deadline.

It quickly became clear Indiana intended to rebuild around Haliburton, making Brogdon expendable.

Many thought he would be dealt on draft night, but when the Pacers didn't get the expected value, they waited.

"We're always going to be aggressive, but there's always certain price points," general manager Chad Buchanan said after the draft. "Sometimes you have to walk away from deals if it's not right for your team."

So the Pacers drafted wing Bennedict Mathurin with the sixth overall pick and took point guard Andrew Nembhard and Kendall Brown in the second round.

They may not be finished, either. Two-time NBA blocks champion Myles Turner has long been rumored to be on the trading block and with so much salary cap room, the Pacers could continue to make a splash either in free agency or the trade market.

Analysis: Settlement best solution for Deshaun Watson, NFL

By ROB MAADDI
AP PRO FOOTBALL WRITER

Now that Deshaun Watson's disciplinary hearing has concluded, the best solution for the NFL and the quarterback's legal team is to reach a settlement before retired judge Sue Robinson issues a decision.

Watson was accused of sexual misconduct by 24 women and has settled 20 of the civil lawsuits. Two separate Texas grand juries declined to indict Watson on criminal complaints stemming from the allegations.

A settlement between the NFL and Watson would avoid an appeal that undermines the collectively bargained process with a disciplinary officer and prevents a potential federal court case. The longer the process drags on, the uglier it can get for the league and the QB.

The NFL is insisting on a suspension of at least one year and Watson's team has argued there is no basis for that punishment, four people with knowledge of the case, including two who were present during the hearings, told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity because details of the three-day proceedings were not publicly released.

Holding firm leaves little wiggle room for a settlement agreement and both sides are sticking to their strong positions.

Robinson, a former U.S. District Judge who was jointly appointed by the league and the NFL Players' Association, will decide whether Watson violated the NFL's personal conduct policy and whether to impose discipline — and most importantly, how severe. Both sides believe she will impose a suspension. The question is how many games and whether either side would appeal her decision, putting it back in NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell's hands.

When a person familiar with Watson's defense team was asked what would be an acceptable suspension, the person told the AP: "Our goal is to get him back on the field this year."

A 6-8 game suspension would fulfill that goal and allow Watson to play for the Cleveland Browns in 2022. So would 10 games, for that matter.

AP

Houston Texans quarterback Deshaun Watson speaks during a news conference after an NFL football game against the Los Angeles Chargers, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019, in Carson, Calif.

But then the next question is what's acceptable for the NFL. The league is well aware of public perception. Fallout from its decision in the Ray Rice case in 2014 (in which the league increased its suspension only after video of Rice hitting his fiance emerged) led the NFL to vow it would levy harsher penalties in cases involving violence and sexual assault against women.

A person familiar with the hearing told the AP the league believes it presented sufficient evidence to warrant keeping Watson off the field this season. The person said the league's investigation determined Watson committed multiple violations of the personal conduct policy.

If Robinson doesn't impose a suspension suitable to the NFL, the league still has the power to do so on its own. Per terms of Article 46 in the collective bargaining agreement, Goodell or his designee "will issue a written decision that will constitute full, final and complete disposition of the dispute," if either side appeals.

However, Watson's team could try to challenge a Goodell ruling in federal court.

That's another reason a settlement is the best way to resolve the dispute.

But it's unclear how many games the NFL would view as an acceptable number. The league can continue to insist on a one-year suspension but that's an obstacle to a mutually beneficial settlement.

There are varying opinions within the NFL.

Some league staffers didn't want Watson on the field for OTAs and minicamp after the Browns acquired him in a blockbuster trade with Houston. They want him to express remorse in his actions and willingly seek counseling before it's mandated through the disciplinary process.

JOSHUA

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competition looks like.

"It really showed me how the competition outside of Saipan is and it helped me feel what it is like to be in a real tournament. Outside of the small ones we have here," he said.

For his father's part, J.J. Atalig said he and his wife will always be supportive of their son and this includes allowing him to spread his wings in the two junior tournaments off-island.

"My wife and I were excited for him that he was accepted. He is able to put Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands on the map at the junior level."

Mini Games golf sports competition manager Geri Dela Cruz congratulated Joshua and his proud parents for his latest achievement.

"The CNMI should be proud of Joshua for being invited to compete in national junior golf tournaments. Joshua grew in this sport competing against older golfers which include his dad. We wish him luck in these tournaments and hope that he will gain experience playing with juniors from all over our country."

Joshua finished with a score of 383 in the four rounds of the Mini Games at the Coral Ocean Resort Golf Course.

He shot an 80 on Day 1 before firing an 82 and 83 in the next two rounds. Joshua then helped the CNMI to a bronze medal finish in the team event on the last day by carding a 78.

Joshua is set to fly out to the U.S. mainland this Friday, July 8. His father, J.J., will also follow him and will be by his side while he competes.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CNMI national golfer Joshua Atalig and the rest of the CNMI men's national golf team, right, took the bronze medal in the team event of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

CFOGA

From Page 20

COR's Double Eagle Restaurant last Friday.

Manibusan told Shin that they were thankful for their hospitality and for a great golf venue during the Games. COR also housed some golf athletes and officials during the Games.

"Thanks to Coral Ocean Resort for hosting the event. All of your staff and volunteers and to all of the people that worked in the field, Sam, Max, and John, [they] did a wonderful job. So, we just wanted to thank you personally… It was well received by the athletes and countries.

Shin said in return that it was an "honor to host the event," and that it was a "great exposure for the course… We tried to support the national team as much as we can—that was our main objective, and the event was successful."

"We appreciate all the support that we got from the committee. The volunteers, the team, the government, and all the athletes and their families. We appreciate that they came all the way to Saipan, the Marianas, and experienced our hospitality. So, I hope it helped the Games and we're glad that we were part of the Games. It was great," added Shin.

COR was the last venue to be chosen for the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 last year. Coral Ocean Resort is a 90-room resort operated by E-Land/Micronesia Resort Inc.

The Marianas Golf Association, Refaluwasch Golf Association, Saipan Golf Association, and other local golf clubs all fall under the Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations.

DAVIS

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the Mini Games only months removed after they suited up together against Estonia in Group II of Davis Cup competition in Tallinn, Estonia.

"I'm excited to meet and play with my teammates in the Davis Cup. They're all here and we're excited to get out there and play against our teammates. I'm excited I heard there's a strong turnout this year. Always coming into these Games we're hoping for a strong draw. It makes it more exciting and it makes it more challenging and therefore more fun," the longest tenured Davis Cup player in the world said.

For Mainguy, he thought it's pretty cool to see his Davis Cup teammates on the other side of the net for a change.

"We trained a lot together and the Mini Games is probably the only moment we can compete against each other. It's the Games and it's different in practice so this time it's going to be fun. I think all of us try to want to beat each other and I know for a fact that me and Matthew can't wait to come and get Colin, he's No. 1 here. We're very motivated to try and get Colin from the top spot."

Stubbings, the No. 2 seed in the men's singles, said it's always fun to play against his Davis Cup teammates.

"We spent a fair amount of time at the start of the year in Estonia. We're a good tight knit team. But when you're here for your country it's a whole kind of feeling. You put on your country's colors and you're obviously proud of representing your country. You're mates off court but when you get into the court in your countries' colors it's all war, it's a little bit of fun competition," he said.

Sinclair, for his part, said he'll just be taking it one game at a time as he figures to be in medal contention in all four divisions of the tennis competition in the Games—men's team, men's doubles, mixed doubles, and singles.

That strategy obviously worked as Sinclar won the aforementioned three gold medals in the Mini Games. He struck first in Day 3 of the tennis competition last June 18 when he teamed up with Robbie Schorr, Colin Ramsay, and Bobby Cruz to win the team event.

He then cemented his dominance by winning back-to-back finals on the last day of the tennis competition last June 24.

Sinclair first repulsed Stubbings in the men's singles finals, 6-0, 6-1.

A few hours later, the ITF Tour veteran teamed up with Schorr to win the men's doubles against Clement and Aymeric Mara, 7-5, 7-5. Sinclair then won a bronze after playing with Isabel Herras in the mixed doubles to cap his Mini Games campaign.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	58	22	.725	_
Boston	45	35	.563	13
Toronto	44	37	.543	14½
Tampa Bay	43	37	.538	15
Baltimore	37	44	.457	21½
Central Division				
Minnesota	46	37	.554	_
Cleveland	40	38	.513	3½
Chicago	38	40	.487	5½
Detroit	32	47	.405	12
Kansas City	29	49	.372	14½
West Division				
Houston	52	27	.658	_
Seattle	40	42	.488	13½
Texas	37	41	.474	14½
Los Angeles	37	44	.457	16
Oakland	27	55	.329	26½

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	50	30	.625	_
Atlanta	47	34	.580	3½
Philadelphia	42	38	.525	8
Miami	38	40	.487	11
Washington	29	53	.354	22
Central Division				
Milwaukee	47	35	.573	_
St. Louis	44	38	.537	3
Pittsburgh	32	47	.405	13½
Chicago	32	48	.400	14
Cincinnati	27	52	.342	18½
West Division				
Los Angeles	50	29	.633	_
San Diego	47	35	.573	4½
San Francisco	40	38	.513	9½
Arizona	36	44	.450	14½
Colorado	35	45	.438	15½

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Red Sox win 8th straight on Fourth of July, beat Rays, 4-0

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Analysis: Settlement best solution for Deshaun Watson,

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Joshua Atalig invited to two junior tourneys

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI national golfer Joshua Atalig has been invited to take part in not one but two tournaments by the American Junior Golf Association.

The son of fellow national golfer J.J. Atalig was first invited by the AJGA to the qualifier for the K.J. Choi Foundation Junior Championship presented by Overnight Printing Seattle on July 11 at The Golf Club at Hawks Prairie in Lacey, Washington.

The younger Atalig's next invite is to the qualifier for the AJGA Junior at the Peach Tree Golf & Country Club in Marysville, California on July 18.

The 15-year-old from Marianas High School was simply pumped after getting the twin invites from AJGA.

"Well my reaction to getting the letter was just pretty excited and it really locked me in. This is finally gonna happen."

He also extended his gratitude to his parents for allowing him to get hooked on golf at a young age.

"I'd definitely like to thank my parents for making any of this even possible and especially my dad for always being hard on me by pushing me to get better everyday."

To prepare for the two tournaments in the U.S., Joshua has pretty much been a staple on the golf course.

"Well I've been training everyday here such as working on my swing, short game, etc. But when we leave Friday we have two practice rounds Saturday and Sunday just to get a feel of how the course is, conditions, greens, etc."

He's also glad that the Mini Games last month also gave him a feel of how high-level

See JOSHUA on Page 19

NMPMG2022/KEN CAMACHO
CNMI national golfer Joshua Atalig in action during the golf competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022 at the Coral Ocean Resort golf course.

Davis Cup teammates turned rivals in Mini Games

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Teammates instantly became rivals as Davis Cuppers represented their respective island nations in the recent Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

While they treat each other as brothers, Pacific Oceania's Davis Cup players were essentially every man for himself in the tennis competition that was held at the American Memorial Park and Pacific Islands Club Saipan tennis courts from June 16 to 24.

All four—the CNMI's Colin Sinclair, Papua New Guinea's Matthew Stubbings, Vanuatu's Clement Mainguy, and Cook Islands' Brett Baudinet—played in the 11th staging of the Games in the CNMI with homegrown tennis hero and No. 1 seed Sinclair eventually winning the gold medal in the men's singles, men's doubles, and men's team event.

Before the start of the tennis competition, Baudinet said he's excited to challenge the region's best on the court in

See DAVIS on Page 19

Baudinet

Mainguy

Sinclair

Stubbings

CFoGA thanks COR for Mini Games venue

LEIGH GASES
From left, Jack Diaz, national golfer and Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations vice president J.J. Atalig, E-Land Group CEO Brian Shin, Coral Ocean Resort general manager Calvin Park, CFoGA president Edward Manibusan, Gerilyn Dela Cruz, golf technical official Dominic Kieffer, and CFoGA member Joey Dela Cruz pose for a photo at Coral Ocean Resort after presenting Shin and Park with tokens of gratitude for their contribution to the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

By LEIGH GASES
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CORRESPONDENT

The Commonwealth Federation of Golf Associations thanked the management and parent company of Coral Ocean Resort for hosting the golf competition of the Northern Marianas Pacific Mini Games 2022.

CFoGA president Edward Manibusan, vice president and national golfer J.J. Atalig, members Joey Dela Cruz and Gerilyn Dela Cruz, Games venue manager Jack Diaz, and golf technical official Dominic Keiffer personally thanked E-Land Group CEO Brian Shin and COR general manager Calvin Park by presenting them with tee boxes and a pin flag for display at

See CFOGA on Page 19